Watashitachi no Shiawasena Jikan

"Our Happy Hours"

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Watashitachi no Shiawasena Jikan

"Our Happy Hours"

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(Translated by Haisuke Kaoru)

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10am on Thursday.
This is the only time
we can live.

✝THE 1ST MEETING✝
No. 3987





Watashitachi no Shiawasena Jikan

Our Happy Hours





To the people who feel worried about the words I write, what's in a diary is not exempt from punishment.

However, this was a chance for me to visit my mindset several months ago.

Because when I was in the dark, I thought I could live unaffected by the true identity of the things that coiled around me.


The first time I met him was during a time like that...

pant...

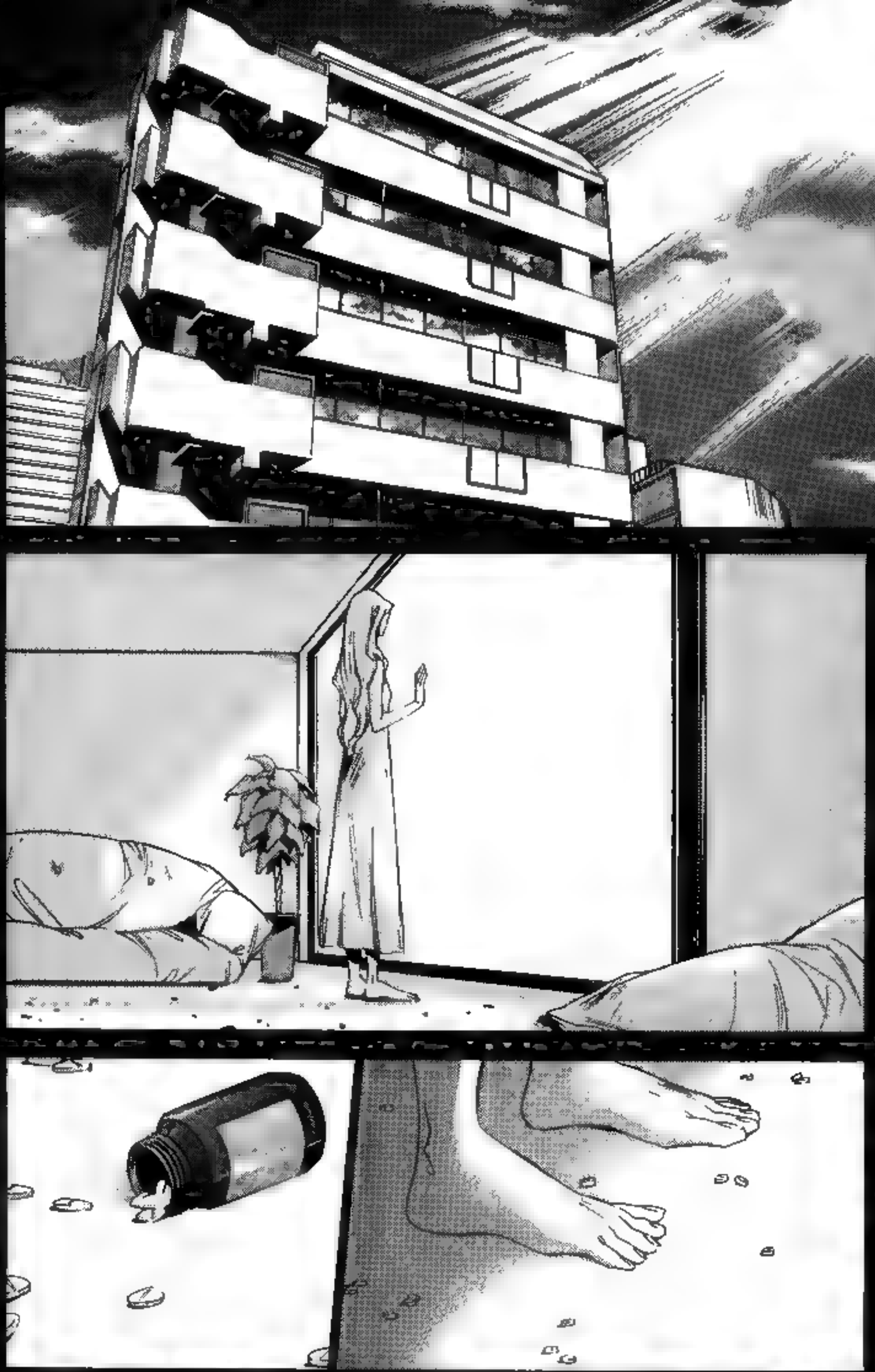
pant...

pant...


part...
part..
part...








Around when November was coming to an end.
I tasted...
death...

NISHISATO TEACHING HOSPITAL

MUTOU JURI OF BUILDING #3...

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE ...

LOOK, SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE MUTOU PLUTOCRATS.

IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S DONE THINGS LIKE THIS FOR A LONG WHILE

EH...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW PEOPLE WHO LIVE SELFISHLY THINK.

WELL, AT ANY RATE,

Mutou Juri

BUT WHY WOULD SOMEONE LIKE HER...?

WELL, THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THEY'RE VERY COLD IN HER FAMILY, BUT...




HOW STRANGE.
EVEN THOUGH I'M FINALLY AWAKE, WHEN I SEE YOUR FACE I WANT TO DIE AGAIN, MOM.


HOW PETTY
ANYWAY, IT SEEMS LIKE IT WILL BE FINE FOR YOU TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL TOMORROW.
YOU THINK FIGHTING WITH YOUR MOTHER IS FUN, EVEN AT YOUR AGE, DO YOU?
I'VE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CAR, SO PLEASE TAKE IT.
I'VE HAD A TERRIBLE HEADACHE SINCE THIS MORNING
I'M SORRY, BUT PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
YOUR TENACITY TOWARDS LIFE IS THE SAME AS EVER.
EVEN WHEN YOU DRAINED AWAY DAD'S LIFE, YOU KEPT ON LIVING...


YOU...
ARE PATHETIC ..
DO YOU EVEN CARE THAT YOU UPSET PEOPLE?
I...
I DECIDED TO DIE—
scratch
BECAUSE IF I LIVE ANY LONGER,
THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT I WILL KILL YOU!

AT LEAST YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU WERE NEVER BORN.


Ever since I
I wonder how
many times I've
She was pregnant with
me after she had already
had my brothers.
Because she
didn't want to
take the risk due
to her old age, she
said she refused
to deliver.


Only my father hoped for my birth, and was glad to have me.
Because of that, I'm responsible for my mother's right hand becoming paralyzed.
My father, too.
He passed away all too soon when I was a child...

AUNT MONICA...

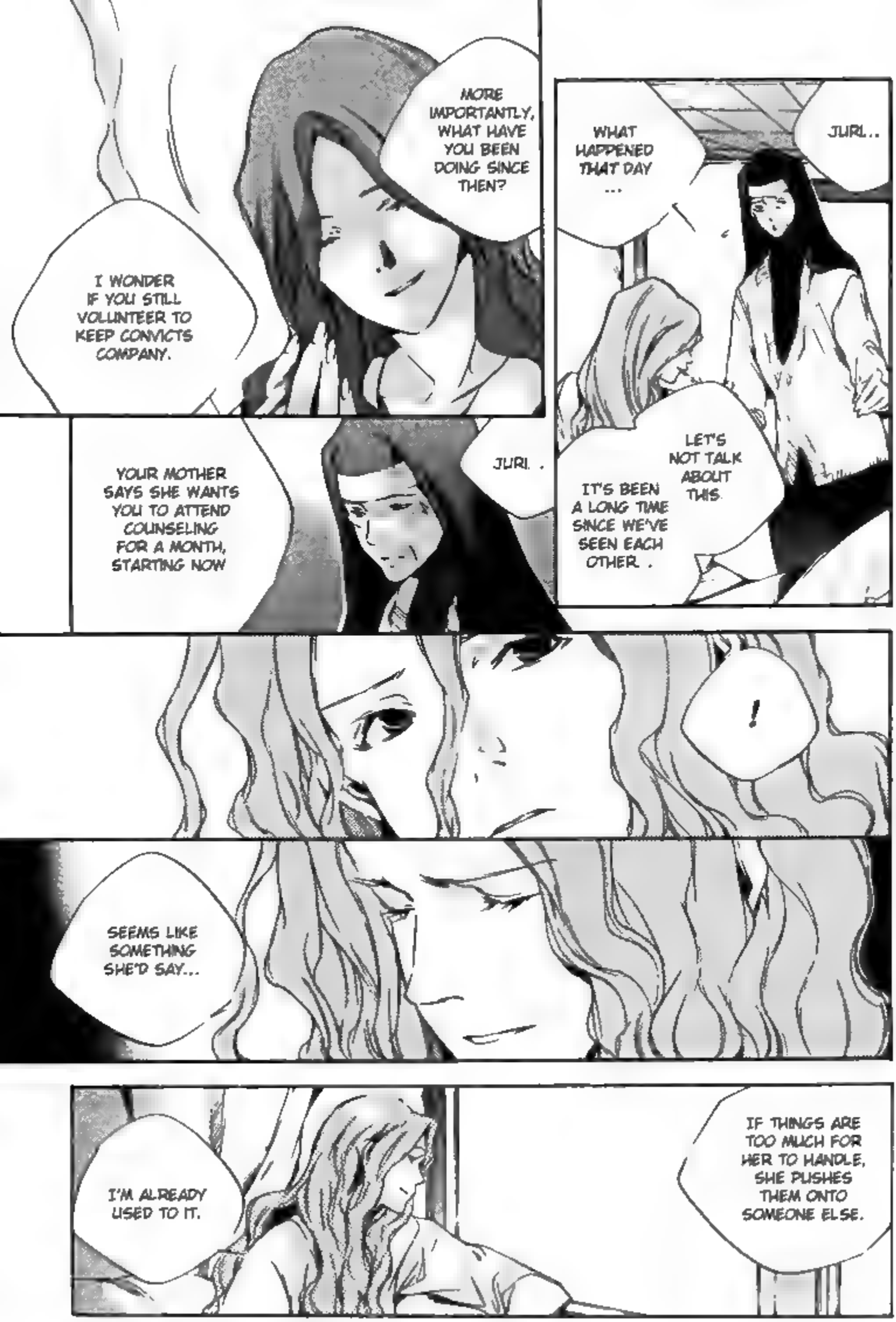
IT'S PASSED SO QUICKLY...

SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN TEN YEARS.

IT WAS BEFORE YOU STUDIED ABROAD IN FRANCE.

I WONDER HOW MANY YEARS IT'S BEEN..


BUT...
IT'S NOT SO OLD THAT YOU'RE GOING TO DIE...
I'M A LOT OLDER THAN BACK THEN.
I'LL BE THIRTY AT THE START OF NEXT YEAR.
..
PEOPLE GROW OLD WITH TIME
EVEN IF YOU DON'T RUSH IT, SOMEDAY YOU WILL NEAR YOUR DEATH...
I'M NOT WAITING FOR THAT DAY ..
TO ME, THE HOURS THAT PASS BY EACH DAY ..
ARE JUST AN AGONY THAT I WANT TO THROW IN THE TRASH.


MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE THEN?
I WONDER IF YOU STILL VOLUNTEER TO KEEP CONVICTS COMPANY.
JURI..
WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY ...
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THIS.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER.
JURI.
YOUR MOTHER SAYS SHE WANTS YOU TO ATTEND COUNSELING FOR A MONTH, STARTING NOW
!
SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING SHE'D SAY...
IF THINGS ARE TOO MUCH FOR HER TO HANDLE, SHE PUSHES THEM ONTO SOMEONE ELSE.
I'M ALREADY USED TO IT.

"NO. 3987."

?

SAY, JURI,

WHY DON'T YOU LEND ME A HAND?

...

NO,NO

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

I CAN'T EVEN LIVE MY OWN LIFE DECENTLY,

AND YOU THINK I CAN SOMEHOW GIVE OTHER PEOPLE ADVICE?

I WON'T PRESSURE YOU, BUT ..

IF YOU'D RATHER BE LOCKED UP IN THE MENTAL WARD FOR A MONTH,

..

WHAT DID THAT MAN DO?




Living your life sustained by a hypocrite's sermons. If anything, it makes me feel uneasy...
Honestly, I have no interest in that kind of liaison.
and does things like send them letters
But my aunt...
certainly knows loneliness...
They make me feel nauseous...
I hate mornings.
sigh


10 O'CLOCK ...?


AUNT MONICA.


AH.
THERE WAS A LOT OF TRAFFIC.
I ASKED YOU TO BE HERE BY 9:30 AT THE LATEST...


I GOT HERE AS FAST AS I—
COULD ...

HEY...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?

LET ME TELL YOU THIS.

YOU SAID THAT THE HOURS OF EVERY DAY ARE TRASH.

HOWEVER, THAT IS THE WAY SOMEONE LUCKY ENOUGH TO WELCOME THE NEXT DAY THINKS.

WHEN I ASKED YOU TO HELP ME WITH MY WORK,

IT WASN'T BECAUSE I WANTED TO GIVE YOU AN EASY ALTERNATIVE.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THIS LIGHTLY,

THEN PLEASE RETURN TO THE MENTAL WARD.

WAIT, AUNT MONICA.

WA—...

B... BUT YOU'RE GOING TO LET ME MEET THAT MAN, RIGHT?

I...

IT WAS WRONG OF ME. I'M SORRY ..

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE'LL BE ABLE TO MEET HIM TODAY OR NOT.

COME ON, CHEER UP,

AUNT MONICA.


I GIVE UP...
sigh
WARDEN INOUE.
OH NO, I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
ERM, IS SHE... FROM THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE...?
Y... YEAH.
I'M HER NIECE, JURI.
SISTER MONICA!
!

FOR SOME REASON,

HE SAID HE WANTED TO MEET YOU TODAY.

THAT IS...

OH...

OH!

REALLY!?

THAT GUY YUU WILL DEFINITELY BE DELIGHTED THAT SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN CAME.

WHOA,

EH..?

I'LL SHOW YOU TO THE VISITING ROOM RIGHT AWAY.

ALRIGHT.

H...
HERE?
YEAH.
I...
I'M SORRY.
IT'S THE
LAW...
WELL
..
LIKE THIS,
IT WON'T BE
ANY DIFFERENT
THAN USUAL
FOR HIM .
BUT EVEN SO,
THERE'S A WALL
BETWEEN US. THIS
IS SUCH A COLD
ROOM...
I...
I CAN
MEET HIM AT
LAST...
.....
PLEASE...
PLEASE,
AT LEAST LET
ME HOLD HIS
HAND.
B ..
BUT...


I'M IN TROUBLE ...
AH... UMM...
PLEASE KEEP THIS A SECRET ..
I COULD GET FIRED FOR THIS ...
OH, BECAUSE YOU GAVE IN TO MY AUNT'S SELFISHNESS.
OF COURSE!
AT ANY RATE, THE PRISON'S SURPRISINGLY QUIET.
I HAD THIS IMAGE FROM WATCHING MOVIES AND TV DRAMAS OF PRISONERS ALWAYS RIOTING BEHIND BARS...

EH...?

THE PRISONERS WHO RECEIVED THE DEATH PENALTY GENERALLY SPEND THE TIME UNTIL THE R SENTENCE ALONE...

THEIR SENTENCES VARY,

BUT...

BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN GIVEN PRIVATE ROOMS, THEY ARE COMPLETELY ALONE.

WELL, IF THEY HAVE ANY ASPIRATIONS, IT'S POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO WORK TOO, BUT...

AND THEY HAVE 3 MEALS A DAY.

THEY EXERCISE OUTSIDE FOR 45 MINUTES EACH DAY.

!

MANY YEARS...

ISN'T IT LIKE THAT SO THAT THE CONVICTS WHO RECEIVED THE DEATH PENALTY HAVE A CHANCE TO BE PARDONED?

THEY HAVE TO SPEND MANY YEARS LIVING L KE THAT.

SINCE THE PERIOD UNTIL THE SENTENCE IS CARR.ED OUT ISN'T FIXED,

HONESTLY, THE DEATH PENALTY IS RARELY GIVEN IN OUR COUNTRY.


I WONDER WHAT ON EARTH HAS BECOME OF THE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE...
IN THAT CASE, TAKING SO LONG TO PUNISH THEM IS POINTLESS.
I'M SHOCKED . .
THAT OUR COUNTRY'S THAT GRACIOUS.
AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE ARE PRISONERS ON DEATH ROW .
WHO HAVE SPENT 7 YEARS OR SO HERE. .
PEOPLE AREN'T ACCUSTOMED TO LOSING...
THERE'S A LOT OF SUPPORT FOR RECONSIDERING THE USE OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.
SINCE THEY WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR THEIR CRIMES, BUT GET TO GO ON LIVING .
THE CONVICTS ON DEATH ROW SURE ARE HAPPY ABOUT IT,
THE END RESULT WILL EVENTUALLY BE THE SAME.
EVEN IF YOU PUT SUCH VIRTUOUS INTENTIONS INTO WORDS,
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
EH. .?

●3987,
COME IN.

…

!



LET ME GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR FACE

I HAVE A LOT I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT WITH YOU

HOW WILL YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE, FROM NOW ON?

WELL, WELL

SO YOU ARE YUJI

WE CAN MEET AT LAST

ARE YOU ASKING ME IF I'VE GIVEN UP ON SUICIDE?

YES.

I'VE GIVEN UP

THAT'S RIGHT THERE'S THAT TOO.


IN THE LETTER I GOT FROM YOU, YOU WROTE THAT DECIDING TO DIE ON MY OWN WON'T ATONE FOR MY SINS
I'LL WAIT QUIETLY UNTIL I'M KILLED.
Y... YUU!
YOU'VE SAID TOO MUCH!
IT'S... IT'S FINE, WARDEN INOUE.
FOR THE TIME BEING, LET'S SIT AND TALK.
OH, RIGHT
THE CHILDREN FROM THE CHURCH...
DREW THIS PICTURE FOR YOU.
I'D LIKE YOU TO SEE IT...


THE LETTERS, COMING TO VISIT ME... IT'S UNNEC-ESSARY.
PLEASE STOP
D... DON'T SAY SUCH SAD THINGS.
THE REASON I CAME HERE TODAY..
ISN'T TO TALK TO YOU.
PLEASE DON'T MISUNDER-STAND, SISTER.
I DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN..
I MAY HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT, BUT I THINK YOU'RE ALLOWED A LITTLE SELFISH-NESS WHEN YOU'RE OLDER. SO PLEASE, LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOU...


THAT'S RIGHT
THINK OF ME AS YOUR MOTHER
I WILL DISCUSS ANYTHING YOU WANT
HMPH
!
WHEN I WAS A KID
I WENT TO A FEW CATHOLIC SERVICES IN ORDER TO GET FOOD


AT FIRST THERE WEREN'T ANY DECENT ADULTS IN MY LIFE.
THE SISTERS WHO GAVE ME A WARM PLACE TO STAY, TALKED TO ME, AND GAVE ME FOOD. .
WERE REALLY LIKE GODS. .
BUT ONCE...
THERE WAS A VAGRANT WHO WAS CLOSE TO DEATH...
BECAUSE OF THE SISTER'S KIND ACTIONS, HE WAS OVERCOME WITH EMOTION.
AND HE GRASPED HER HAND.
AT THAT INSTANT SHE PULLED BACK,
CRIED OUT IN REJECTION, AND HAD SUCH A LOOK ON HER FACE..


THAT VAGRANT ...
M... MY
WHAT A SAD EXP-ERIENCE...
WAS CRYING AS HE LEFT.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT SISTER'S RUDENESS.
I'M REALLY SORR-
.....
BAA
AANG..


YES, EXACTLY.
THAT'S THE FACE.
I KNOW THAT YOU RECOGNIZE FILTHY THINGS.
YUU!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?


SISTER,
I LEARNED SOMETHING BACK THEN.
COME HERE!
GUARDS!
TAKE HIM OUTSIDE!
THAT THE GROUP WHICH DISCRIMINATES THE MOST...
ARE THE PEOPLE WHO DECORATE THEMSELVES IN PRETTY WORDS.
SAYING THAT I KILLED IN FLESH AND BLOOD...
WOULD MAKE EVEN WHAT LITTLE REMAINS OF YOUR PRIDE ROT.
WHEN I SEE PEOPLE LIKE YOU,
I FEEL NAUSEOUS.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, AUNT MONICA?

J... JURI HERE...

EVEN IF HE ONLY TAKES A GLIMPSE AT THE CHILDRENS' PICTURE..

.....

IT'S STILL TOO SOON TO DECIDE.

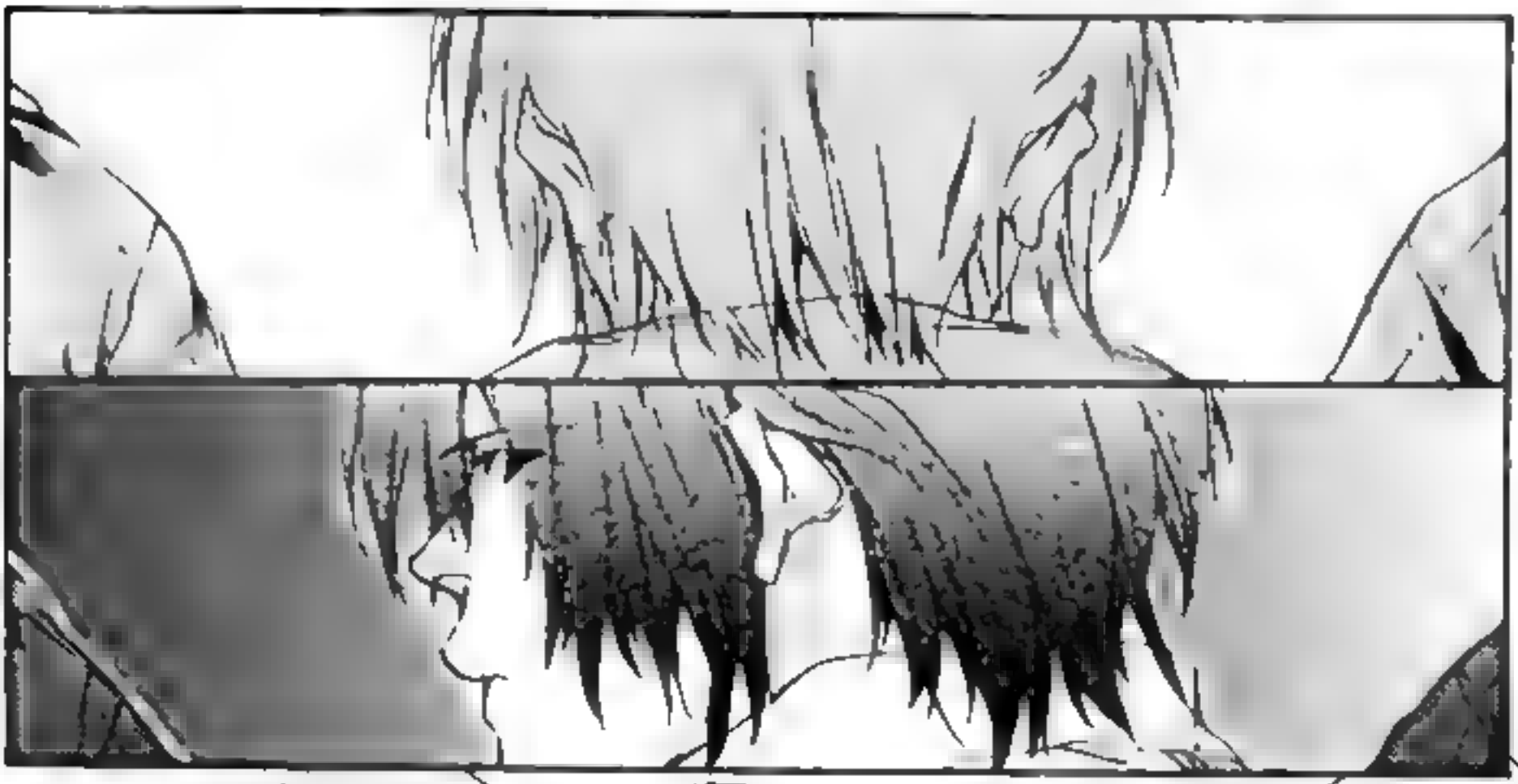
PLEASE ...

.....

I DON'T THINK HE NEEDS THIS KIND OF HELP..


WAIT.
MY AUNT WANTED YOU TO HAVE THIS...
SEEMS LIKE THE CLERGY IS PERSISTENT ABOUT LOOKING DOWN ON PEOPLE.


THINK YOU AND THAT VAGRANT ARE LUCKY.
I...




THEY HOLD ON TO HOPE UNTIL THEN. I THINK THAT WOULD BE A BLESSING
WHEN PEOPLE ARE BETRAYED AT THE END OF THEIR LIVES,
THEY'D BE ABLE TO DECIDE ON THEIR OWN HOW THEY'D LIKE TO LIVE.
AFTER ALL, IF PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD THOSE THINGS AT THE START OF THEIR LIVES,

IS WHEN A PERSON IS LET DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE R LIFE...

THE GREATEST BURDEN...

COME ON, LET'S GO.

...






HEY,
MOVE IT!


.....


AUNT MONICA, DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU BACK?
I'M FINE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, DON'T BE LATE NEXT THURSDAY
!
Y... YOU MEAN YOU'LL LET ME COME AGAIN?
BUT I THOUGHT I WAS IN THE WRONG, SAYING THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.
OF COURSE.
THAT PRISONER ...
DIDN'T ASK FOR IT.

I WON'T SAY THAT I EVEN HALF-UNDERSTOOD HIM,

BUT...

BUT BACK THEN,

I FELT THE SAME NAUSEA AS HE DOES TOWARDS THE WORDS OF THE CLERGY.

THEN WHY—

I UNDER-STAND WELL ENOUGH.

I ALSO FEEL THE SAME WAY...

BECAUSE.


BECAUSE...
THEY HAVE WORDS THAT HELP AS WELL...
NOT FOR ME.
I...
CAN'T BE LIKE YOU, AUNT MONICA.
JURI.
BECAUSE I STILL CAN'T FORGIVE, EVEN NOW.

JURI!

.....

LOOK, YUU.

THEY DRAW WELL.

JUST WHAT WERE YOU DOING?

ISN'T THAT NUN SOMEONE WHO IS JUST LOOKING OUT FOR YOU!?

...

HMM?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

IT'S EASIER NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH PEOPLE

BUT YOU KIND OF GET THAT, DON'T YOU, WARDEN INOUE?

NO.

IT'S NOTHING.



私たちの幸せな時間

漫画：佐原ミズ　原作：孔枝泳（蓮池薫／訳）

Bunch Comics Extra

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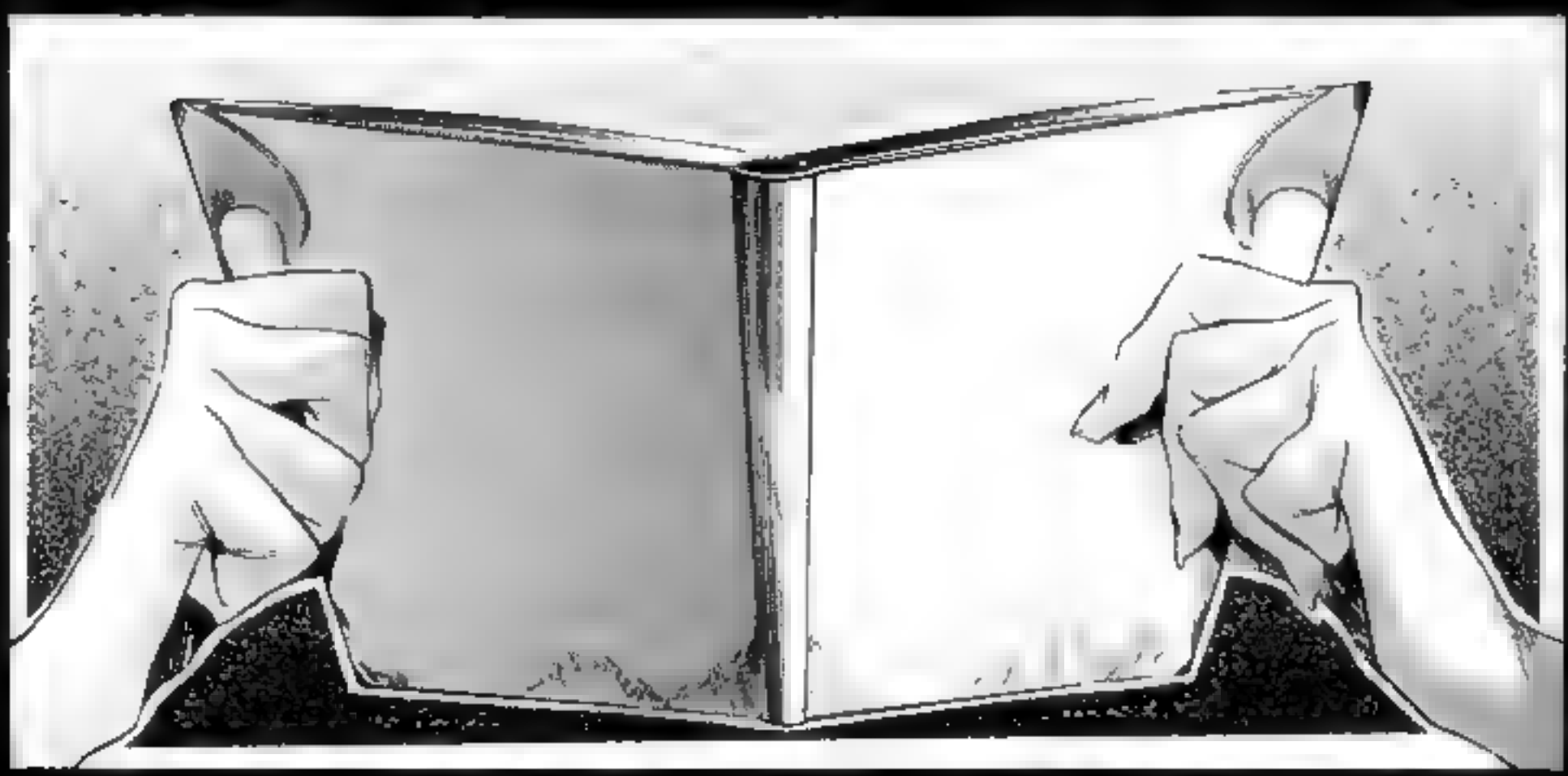
雑誌　47555-45

"I have something I don't want to lose—
So much so that these terrible feelings have grown."

In the past, the man was a murderer who indiscriminately took the lives of three people.
In the past, the woman was a former pianist who attempted suicide three times.
The two who are awkward at living meet and exchange words within the restricted visiting hours "Thursday at 10am". However, before long they both embrace an earnest hope in their hearts "I want to live".
A frankly composed love story about a man and a woman that touches your heart.



My second encounter with him was the horrible things I heard about him.



†THE 2ND MEETING†
PIANO

To be honest, I didn't really like the piano that much.

But I played it, because it made my aunt, my cousin Hide, and my mom happy.

My mom was always yelling, and she'd only quiet down when she was listening to me play the piano.

So I played.
For her sake...



creak

SORRY FOR THE WAIT, KOU.

LET'S GO GRAB A BITE.

THAT GRANNY PAID OUT BIG TIME.

HUH?

IT'S REALLY PRETTY PIANO MUSIC.

I WONDER WHO'S PLAYING IT..

HEY, BRO,

I CAN HEAR MUSIC..

I HEARD SHE'S THIS GREAT NEW 16-YEAR-OLD PIANIST.

SHE DOES SEEM LIKE A PRINCESS...

MUTOU... JURI...

I CAN'T HEAR YOUR...

CRYING, EITHER...

REALLY?

YEAH.

I CAN'T HEAR A SINGLE BAD THING, SO IT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.

WHEN SHE PLAYS THE PIANO,




YOU DO CRY.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ALL THE TIME,
ALL THE TIME...
I DON'T CRY.


SHUT UP!

SORRY, BRO.

IF I WEREN'T AROUND,

YOUR LIFE WOULD BE A LITTLE EASIER...

HERE,

YOU LISTEN TOO, BRO.

YOU'LL FEEL BETTER...

SORRY, BRO...

.....

Sorry ——…

…

YUU.

HEY, YOU REMEMBER HER?

THE ONE FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE A WHILE AGO, MUTOU.

ARE YOU AWAKE, YUU?

JURI MUTOU

LOOK AT THIS.

I THOUGHT I'D SEEN HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE. TURNS OUT SHE USED TO PLAY PIANO.

BELEVE IT OR NOT, I WAS A FAN OF HERS...

ANYWAY, I JUST GOT A BIT NOSTALGIC, SO I BROUGHT THIS...

...STILL,

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS STUFF, DO YOU, YUU?

IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I WAS THINKING I COULD RUN IT DURING MUSIC TIME OR SOMETHING...

THOUGH, I GUESS IT'D BE BETTER TO PLAY A MORE MODERN TUNE, HUH?

I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A PLACE...

WHERE THE BAD DAYS DIDN'T KEEP RUNNING BY...

EH...

I'D LIKE TO HEAR IT.

PLEASE PLAY IT...

J...

JUST A MINUTE.

I HAVE AN OLD CD PLAYER. LET ME GET IT.

...!

I HEARD HE WANTS TO PLAY SOME MUSIC FOR AN INMATE...

IT'S INOUE AGAIN.

WHOA...

WHAT'S ALL THIS...?

THAT GUY'S ON DEATH ROW...

... REALLY,

DOESN'T HE GET IT?

YEAH...

I HOPE THE BOSSES DON'T SEE HIM, THOUGH...

MS. MUTOU.

HM?

YOU'RE GOING HOME ALREADY?

YES,

I'M JUST A PART-TIME LECTURER.

I DON'T WORK AS LONG AS THE OTHERS.

.....

EVERY NOW AND THEN, THEY BRING IN A SINGING PIANIST, TOO...

OH,

THAT REMINDS ME, YOU USED TO PLAY THE PIANO TOO, RIGHT?

I FOUND A BAR WITH A GREAT ATMOSPHERE.

WELL,

IF YOU'RE UP FOR IT, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FOR SOME DRINKS?

I HEARD YOU WERE REALLY POPULAR.

I WAS HOPING I COULD HEAR YOU PLAY.

I AM NEVER PLAYING THE PIANO AGAIN!

MY AUNT'S WAITING FOR ME AT THE TRAIN STATION, SO I HAVE TO GO!

EH...

WAIT...

MS. MUTOU.



!

chatter

WHAT'S GOING ON?

E— EXCUSE ME.

CAN YOU LET ME THROUGH, PLEASE?

WELL... THIS WOMAN WHO LOOKS LIKE A NUN GOT IN A FIGHT...

!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

YOU WANT ME TO FORGIVE A GUY WHO MURDERED 3 PEOPLE?!

YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING, BUT YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE THE GOOD GUYS WHO KNOW IT ALL!

YOU PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LIKE THIS!

I WANT TO KILL HIM MYSELF RIGHT NOW!

JUST GO AWAY!

GET OUT OF HERE!

UWAHH...

...

AUNT MONICA ...

IT MIGHT BE SPRAINED...

DOES YOUR FOOT STILL HURT?

.....

DID SHE MEAN HIM?

THAT KILLER SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT...

YET YOU'RE SO CALM ABOUT IT.

I REALLY ADMIRE YOU...

THE CONVICT YELLS AT YOU, AND THE VICTIM'S FAMILY PUSHES YOU DOWN...

I'M NOT CALM...

EVERY NOW AND THEN, IT SEEMS LIKE MY HEART IS BREAKING.

THAT'S WHEN I THINK OF HOW YOU USED TO PLAY PIANO, JUR.

EH?

WHEN YOU PLAYED THE PIANO...

HIDEAKI LOVED...

.....

ENOUGH WITH THE OLD STORIES...

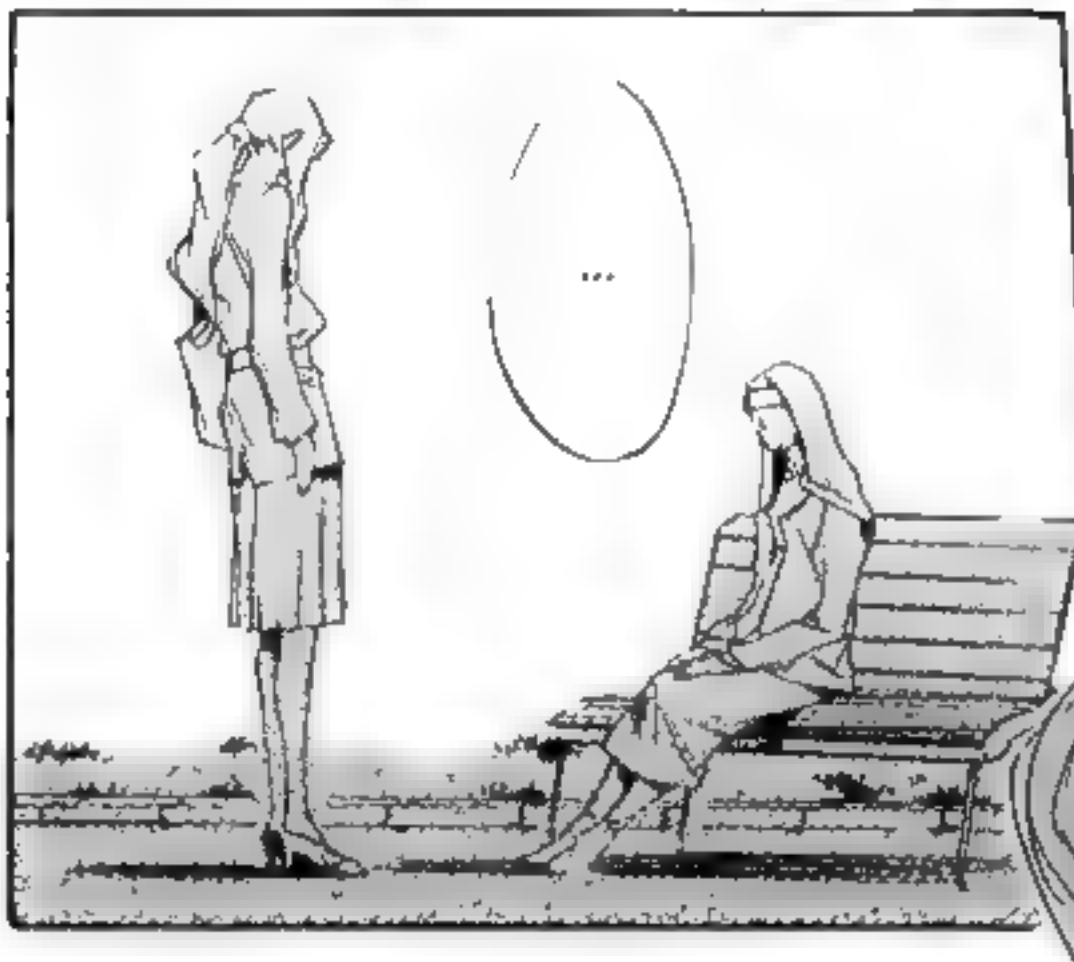
I WAS ONLY A POPULAR PIANIST...

FOR THAT ONE YEAR WHEN I WAS 16.

YOUR PIANO CHEERED ME UP...

WHEN MY BOY WAS GONE, AND DURING THOSE LONELY HOURS AT THE PRISON,


IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO—
THOUGH I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR IT AGAIN, SOMEDAY ..


...


YOUR PIANO, JURI!..



AH, FOR THAT INMATE AGAIN?

I HEARD THE YELLING FROM UPSTAIRS.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

NOT MUCH...

I PUT IN BATTERIES, BUT IT'S NOT WORKING...

INOUE!

Haha

I DON'T MIND IT...

AFTER IT'S OVER AND DONE WITH, YOU'RE THE ONE IT'S GOING TO AFFECT THE MOST..

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL MATTER, COMING FROM ME, BUT...

YOU SHOULDN'T GET TOO CLOSE TO HIM...

.....

MY TERM AT THIS POSITION IS 2 YEARS...

I CAN'T EVEN COUNT HOW MANY TIMES I'VE GOTTEN GOOSEBUMPS JUST THINKING ABOUT THE CRIMES THOSE GUYS HAVE COMMITTED OUTSIDE OF THIS PRISON...

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AT FIRST, BUT...

I THOUGHT THAT I COULDN'T HAVE ANY COMPASSION FOR THEM.

THERE ARE ALSO ONES WHO COULDN'T STOP THEMSELVES AND HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO LIVE THE WAY THEY DID.

BUT...

THERE ARE CRIMINALS YOU WILL HATE UNTIL THE VERY END...

HAVE YOU READ YUU'S FILE?

NO...

HIS FATHER WAS ONE HELL OF A MEAN DRUNK.

HIS MOTHER COULDN'T TAKE IT, SO SHE ABANDONED HER KIDS AND DISAPPEARED.

YUU HAD A BROTHER WHO WAS 3 YEARS YOUNGER THAN HIM.

THE BOY LOST SIGHT IN BOTH OF HIS EYES DUE TO HIS FATHER'S ABUSE...

BUT HIS FATHER DIED SOON AFTER FROM ALCOHOL ABUSE, WHEN YUU WAS 13.

THE TWO OF THEM HAD TO GO TO AN ORPHANAGE, SINCE NONE OF THEIR RELATIVES OFFERED TO TAKE THEM IN.

HIS LITTLE BROTHER WAS BULLIED BADLY THERE.

YUU TOOK HIS BROTHER AND RAN AWAY FROM THERE...

CAN YOU IMAGINE?

THE KIND OF LIFE THAT A 13-YEAR-OLD,

TAKING CARE OF HIS BLIND BROTHER, LED...

ONE MORNING HE WOKE UP TO SIRENS,

AND HIS BROTHER, WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN SLEEPING NEXT TO HIM, WAS GONE...

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CROWD IN FRONT OF HIM WAS GATHERING OVER?

HIS LITTLE BROTHER...

FEELING GUILTY OVER THE FACT THAT YUJI WAS CONSTANTLY PROSTITUTING HIMSELF TO TAKE CARE OF HIM...

HAD THROWN HIMSELF INTO THE STREET. .

IT SEEMS LIKE HE JUST LOST IT AFTER THAT.

HE KILLED 3 PEOPLE...

A HAPPY-LOOKING MOTHER AND CHILD, AND A WEALTHY YOUNG MAN WHO CAUGHT HIS EYE...

HIS LIST OF CRIMES GOES ON AND ON.

THE JEALOUSY AND ENVY THAT HAD BEEN BOTTLED UP INSIDE HIM EXPLODED IN THE WORST WAY POSSIBLE .

.....

INOUE...

HE WILL BE PUNISHED.

HE WAS TRIED FOR THEM.

I DON'T INTEND TO FORGIVE HIM.

WHAT HE DID WAS INEXCUS-ABLE.

DOESN'T THAT SEEM SAD...?

ALL THAT WE CAN DO FOR A GUY WHO LIVED HIS LIFE WITHOUT EVER SMILING?

IS A ROPE AROUND THE NECK AND A DROP FROM THE GALLOWS...

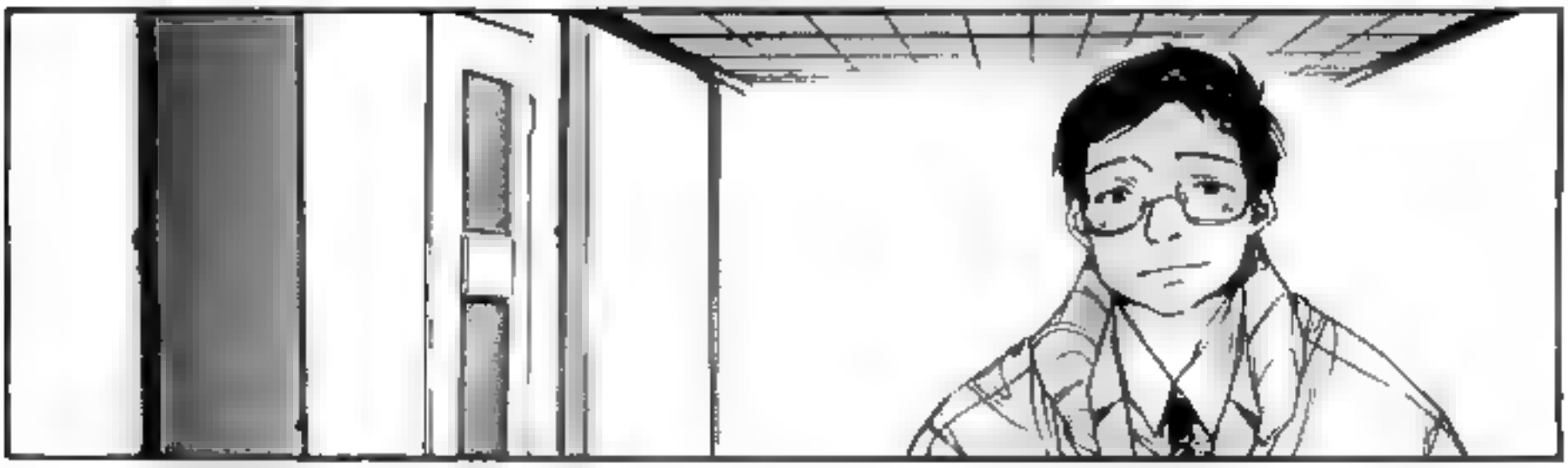
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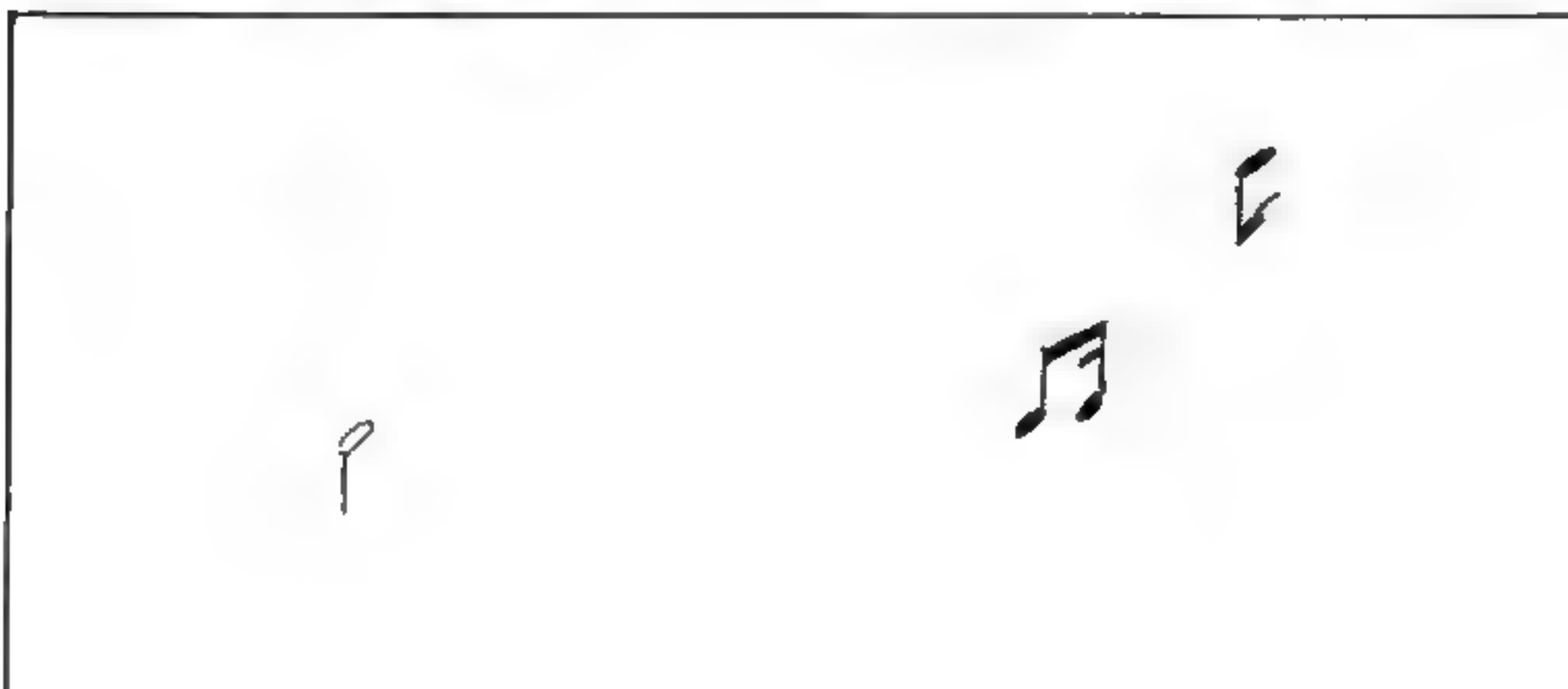
IT'S PROBABLY SOME FAULTY WIRING ON THAT CD PLAYER...

.....

I TOOK ENGINEERING AS AN ELECTIVE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

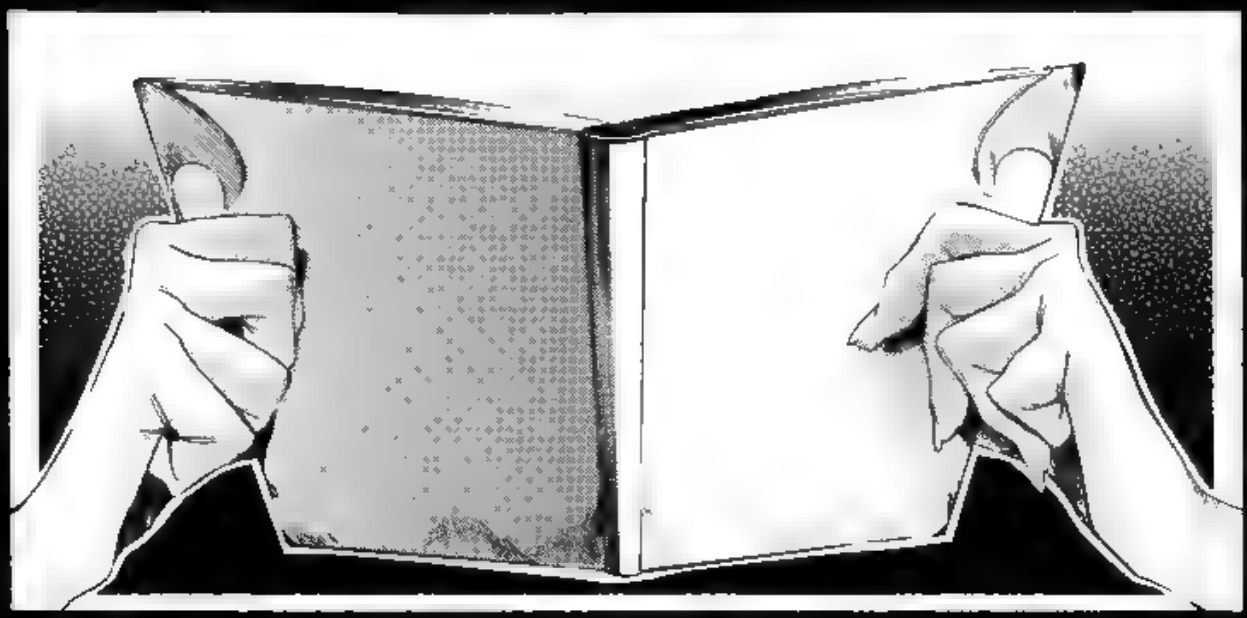
I REALLY APPRECIATE IT...







My third encounter with him
occurred through my misfortune...



†THE 3RD MEETING†

THE BIGOT

For fourteen years, I had a secret
that I couldn't tell anyone.

I don't know why I confessed
all the sorrow that had collected
inside my chest to him back then.

Was it because I was drunk?
Because I thought he was
going to die soon, anyway?
Or because I knew that he was
the same kind of person as me?

YOU NEVER LET UP, AND YOU'RE NEARLY 70.

YOU WERE BOUND TO BREAK A LEG AT SOME POINT.

IT'S PRETTY SAD...

THEY SAID THAT I CAN'T MOVE AROUND FOR A FEW WEEKS...

OH, ALREADY?

ANYWAY, I'M HEADING HOME.

BECAUSE OF YOU.

I LOOKED UP THAT PRISONER ON THE INTERNET YESTERDAY.

OH, JURI.

IF I STAY ANY LONGER, I FIGURE I'LL GET ROPED INTO DOING TOO MUCH.

HE PUSHED A MOTHER AND CHILD ONTO THE TRACKS AT A TRAIN STATION, AND THEY WERE RUN OVER.

THEN HE USED HER UMBRELLA TO STAB A YOUNG PASSERBY TO DEATH...

HE KILLED THREE PEOPLE IN AN INSTANT IN THAT MURDER SPREE...

IS HE THE ONLY UNFORTUNATE ONE IN THE WORLD?

THERE WERE ALSO DETAILS OF HIS HORRIBLE PAST, BUT...

AND THE PEOPLE WHO SAY HE SHOULD BE THE ONE KILLED?

THEN WHAT OF THE PEOPLE KILLED BY HIS SELFISH ACTS?

IF YOU PARDON THE THINGS THAT UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE DO...

BUT I GUESS ...

THERE ARE UNIQUE PEOPLE LIKE YOU IN IT, TOO.

ARE THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE OUTSIDE OF THAT VORTEX,

BLISSFULLY IGNORANT.

THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN IMAGINE THE END OF THAT DOWNWARD SPIRAL...

FORGET IT

I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN.

TAKE CARE.

JLR!...

THAT MAN DOESN'T HAVE ANYONE.

ABANDONING HIM AS IT SUITS YOU MAKES YOU THE SAME AS THE PERSON YOU HATE.

SO YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU DIDN'T NEED ME AT ALL, JURI?

IF ONLY I'D JUMPED FROM A BUILDING INSTEAD OF SLITTING MY WRISTS...

YEAH, YOU WERE THE ONLY REASON I DIDN'T PICK BETTER WAYS TO KILL MYSELF, AUNT MONICA...

OR DRANK SULFURIC ACID INSTEAD OF TAKING SLEEPING PILLS...

IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT THERE ACTUALLY IS SOMEBODY WHO'D MISS ME AND GRIEVE FOR ME...

THAT MAKES MY HEART ACHE..

I'LL GO SEE HIM.

FINE.

BUT IN EXCHANGE ..

PRAY FOR ME SOMETIMES, TOO...

WANT TO KILL MYSELF ANYMORE...

PRAY THAT I WON'T...

I CAN'T DO THAT IN EXCHANGE...

EH...?

BEEN PRAYING FOR THAT THIS ENTIRE TIME...

I'VE...

YOU HAVE TO COME TO FORGIVE, AS WELL...

FOR THAT DAY—

LISTEN, JURI...

NOT FOR ANYONE ELSE'S SAKE...

BUT FOR YOUR OWN...

there's something that I can't help but think about...

Every once in a while,

When that happens...

My elderly aunt will surely die before I do, right...?

How should I live my life?

Will I be able to stand alone,

without losing it...?

ER, UM..

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME TODAY, SINCE MY LAST VISIT DIDN'T GO SO WELL..

.....

YUU'S REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT, TOO.

RIGHT?

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GIVE UP ON HAVING ANY VISITORS TODAY.

THANK YOU FOR VISITING IN THE SISTER'S PLACE WHILE SHE RECOVERS.

OH, NO.

UM... UM, THAT'S RIGHT!

THAT REMINDS ME, MS. MUTOU.

.....

!

YOU USED TO PLAY THE PIANO, DIDN'T YOU?

BACK THEN, I LISTENED TO YOUR MUSIC AGAIN AND AGAIN.

WELL, YOU SEE, I USED TO BE A BIG FAN.

I'D REALLY LOVE TO HEAR IT AGAIN.

TH...

I WAS SURPRISED WHEN YOU SUDDENLY RETIRED.

THANK YOU...

EVERYONE HAD SUCH GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR YOU, TOO...

WHY DID YOU DO IT?

MS...

MS. MUTOU...?

IF MY AUNT HADN'T ASKED ME TO, I'D HAVE NEVER COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS...

EH . ?

I WILL NEVER PLAY THE PIANO AGAIN.

WHAT'S WRONG, MS. MUTOU?

DON'T SAY THAT...

D. .

AH... NOTHING ...

OH!

HAHA...

ARE YOU THE SAME AS THAT NUN AFTER ALL... ?

Y... YUU!

HAHAHA...

!

FORCING YOUR GOOD INTENTIONS ON OTHERS..

BUT ALL THE WHILE JUST WANTING TO BASK IN YOUR SUPERIORITY?

GO HOME, PRINCESS.

DO YOU WANT ME TO THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT HERE TO SEE ME OR SOMETHING?

IF SHE HADN'T BEEN PUSHED BY ONE OF YOUR VICTIM'S RELATVES TODAY AND HURT HER LEG

THE TRUTH IS,

MY AUNT ISN'T THAT KIND OF PERSON...

I'M.. I MEAN,

WAIT..

YUU!

WHAT YOU DID, EVEN THE SLIGHTEST AMOUNT...

MY AUNT WANTED HER TO UNDER-STAND.

EH...?

M.. MS. MUTOU, PLEASE DON'T DISCUSS HIS CRIMES HERE—

haa

haa

haa

haa

haa

clatter

YUU!

..ORRY...

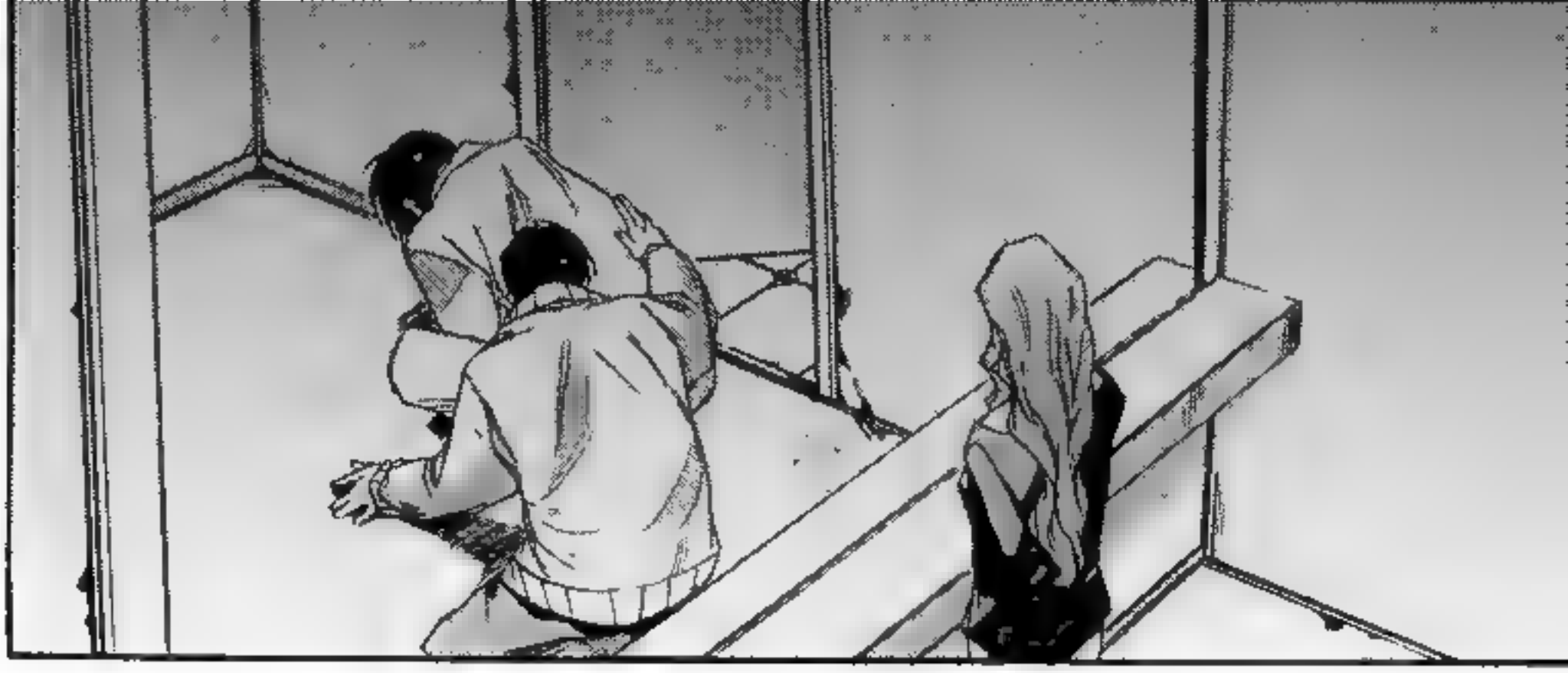
IT'S OKAY, YUU.

IT'S OKAY, JUST CALM DOWN.

I'M SORRY...

I'M SORRY ..

I'M SORRY ..




vozzz
bzzz
vozzz

YES?

IT'S ONLY AFTERNOON AND YOU'RE DRINKING ALREADY?!

.....

WHAT IS IT, BROTHER?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

DON'T GIVE ME THAT.

HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU LET THE PHONE RING?

YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW UP FOR MOM'S BIRTHDAY, RIGHT?

OH, RIGHT, THAT'S TODAY.

I'M NOT GOING.

LISTEN, YOU...

ANYWAY, I'M COMING TO GET YOU.

YOU CAN'T DRIVE WHILE YOU'RE DRUNK, CAN YOU?

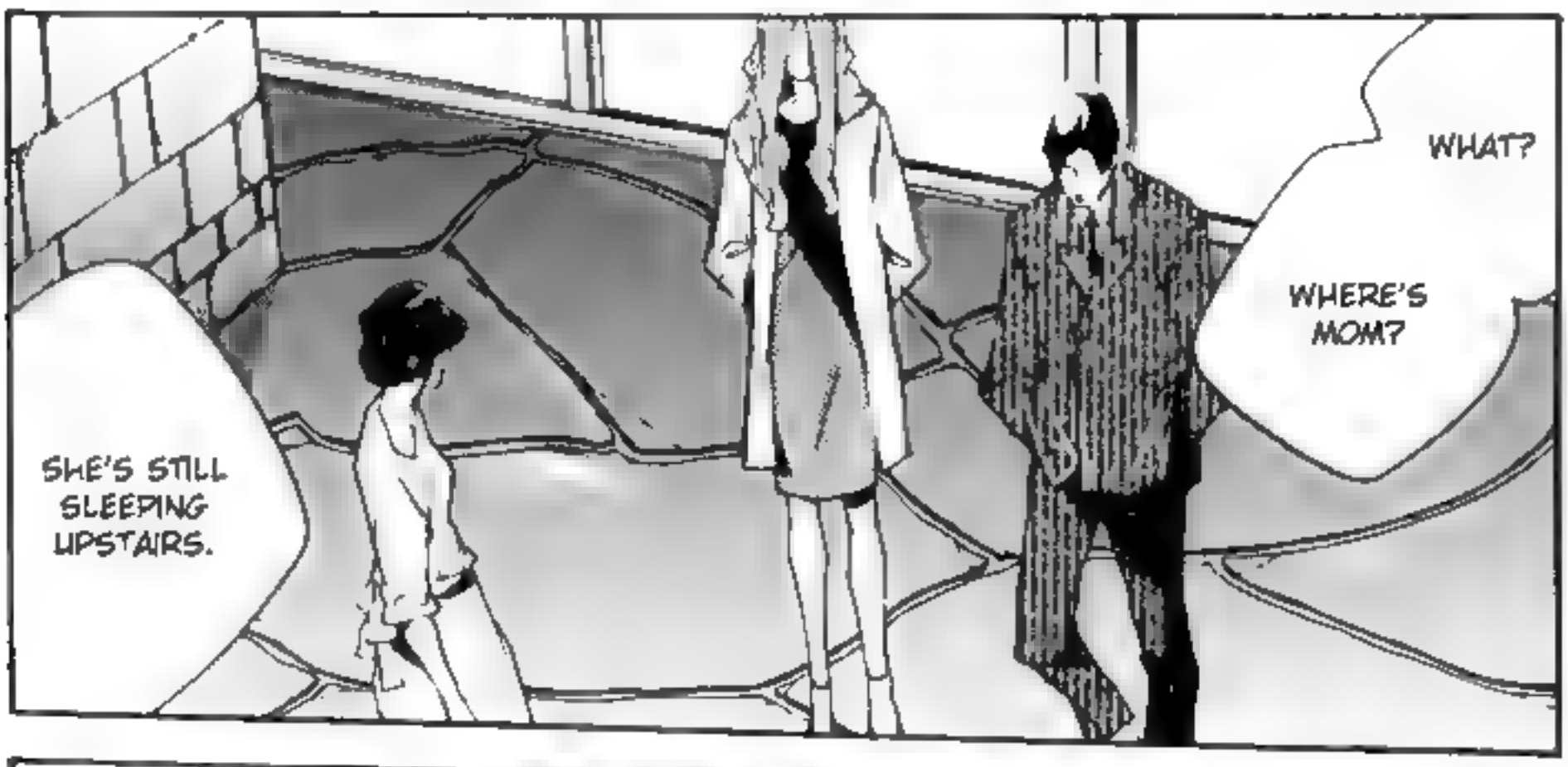
WAIT—

FORGET IT, I'M NOT—

blip

...




SHE'S STILL SLEEPING UPSTAIRS.
WHAT?
WHERE'S MOM?


ACTUALLY, THE TUTOR DROPPED BY YESTERDAY...
THE TUTOR?


HUH?
IT'S PAST THREE ALREADY.
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK THIS EVENING...

JURI'S PIANO TUTOR.

YES.

SHE HADN'T SEEN HIM IN A LONG TIME, AND IT LOOKED LIKE THEY HAD A GOOD TIME LAST NIGHT.

HE USED TO COME AND TEACH HER UNTIL SHE STOPPED PLAYING WHEN SHE WAS 16...

THEY WERE UP LATE TALKING, SO THAT'S PROBABLY WHY SHE HASN'T WOKEN UP YET.

RIGHT,

I THINK I REMEMBER. HE WAS GOOD FRIENDS WITH MOM...

THEN I GUESS I'LL COME BACK LATER...

I SEE...

HUH?

WHAT ABOUT YOU, JURI...?






There's no way he did something like that to you!
Be silent! Enough of this foolishness!

The one...

No one's going to believe you!

No matter how many times you say it...

who is lying...

MM...

wheee

JURI—

I'M HEADING BACK...

is you, mother...

MOM!

ARE YOU OKAY, MOM?!

YANK

JURI!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

!!

dash

JURI!

Mom...

Mom...

Are you still angry...

Because it's my fault that you can't play the piano anymore?

Mom...

Mom...

Do you hate me that much?

THE CHURCH LADY IS HERE AGAIN...

IT'S STILL EARLY IN DECEMBER...

IT'S A BIT EARLY FOR THE FIRST SNOW OF THE YEAR.

M... MR. INOUE!

AH!

LOOKS LIKE IT'S FINALLY STARTING TO SNOW...

IT'S NO WONDER, WITH HOW COLD IT IS TODAY...

MS. MUTOU IS HERE AGAIN...!

Y... YUU!

EH?

AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

TH... THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER.

?





I TRIED TO KI... MYSELF FOR THE THIRD TIME...

JUST A FEW WEEKS BEFORE I MET YOU...

TO TRY AND MAKE UP FOR IT, EVEN A LITTLE,

I PLAYED THE PIANO EVERY DAY FOR HER SINCE I WAS LITTLE.

MY MOM WAS A REALLY FAMOUS PIANIST...

BUT SHE WAS FORCED TO GIVE IT UP AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO ME...

I...

I...

BUT. .

I WAS RAPED BY MY PIANO TUTOR.

SHE TOLD ME TO LIE AND SAY IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.

I TOLD MY MOM, OF COURSE, BUT...

SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME AT ALL.

SHE HATED SHAMEFUL THINGS LIKE THAT, AND SILENCED ME

AND TO LIVE MY LIFE LIKE THAT...

SINCE THEN,

I HAVEN'T PLAYED THE PIANO.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I PLAYED THE PIANO, IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE IT UP TO HER..

I GET EMOTIONAL DURING THE DAY SOME-TIMES...

AND SAY CRUEL THINGS. I'M SORRY...

...

OH .. NO,

I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO APOLOGIZE. I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING, YET I ..

SO SHE ASKED ME TO MEET WITH CONVICTS WHO HAVE NO FUTURE...

MY AUNT, WHO LIVES SUCH A HUMBLE LIFE, COULDN'T LET ME TO GO ON LIKE THIS.

TO THIS DAY, I LIVE ON MY HATRED TOWARDS MY MOTHER...

I WANT NO PART OF THEIR BEHAVIOR...

THEY'RE CONVINCED THAT THEIR WORDS CAN TURN SADISTIC CONVICTS INTO ANGELS.

BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THERE REALLY ARE ANY PURE-HEARTED CLERGY IN THE WORLD.

THAT'S BECAUSE WHAT I DO KNOW ABOUT YOU...

WAS JUST EXAGGERATED TO ENTERTAIN, AND WRITTEN BY SOMEONE ON THE OUTSIDE.

I...

DON'T LIKE YOU...

BUT...

I DON'T HATE YOU, EITHER.

IF I COME HERE IT'S TO GET SOMETHING AND LEAVE...

I DON'T HAVE ROOM TO EMPATHIZE WITH OTHER PEOPLE...

BUT IF EVERYONE I CROSS IS GOING TO BE POLITE ON THE OUTSIDE,

AND JUST SAY PRETTY WORDS THAT MASK THEIR TRUE FEELINGS, I DON'T NEED IT

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY LIES...

IF YOU WOULD TALK WITH ME

I HATE UNFAIRNESS

I INTEND TO SPEAK FRANKLY WITH YOU

WHEN I ENTERED THE ORPHANAGE...

...

"DON'T WORRY, EVERYONE HERE IS EQUALLY BAD OFF..."

THE DIRECTOR TOLD ME THIS:

THOSE GUYS DIDN'T GET IT.

THE MOMENT YOU SAY YOU'RE BAD OFF, EQUALITY NO LONGER APPLIES...

YOU'RE A REALLY ODD ONE...

ODD, WEIRDO

BIGOT...

TO WANT...

TO PICK A PRISONER, AND ONE ON DEATH ROW, TO TALK TO WITHOUT BIAS...

PEOPLE OFTEN CALL ME THAT BEHIND MY BACK.

ME TOO ..

KNOCK KNOCK

I...

I'M SORRY, BUT VISITING HOURS ARE OVER..

...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M THINKING ...

WEIRDO...

I GOT CALLED THAT A LOT...

AH...

O...

OKAY...

FOR SHOWING UP ALL OF A SUDDEN...

I..

I'M SORRY...




NEXT THURSDAY AT 11AM.

IF I'M STILL ALIVE THEN, PLEASE STOP BY.

I ALSO...

WOULD LIKE TO TALK...

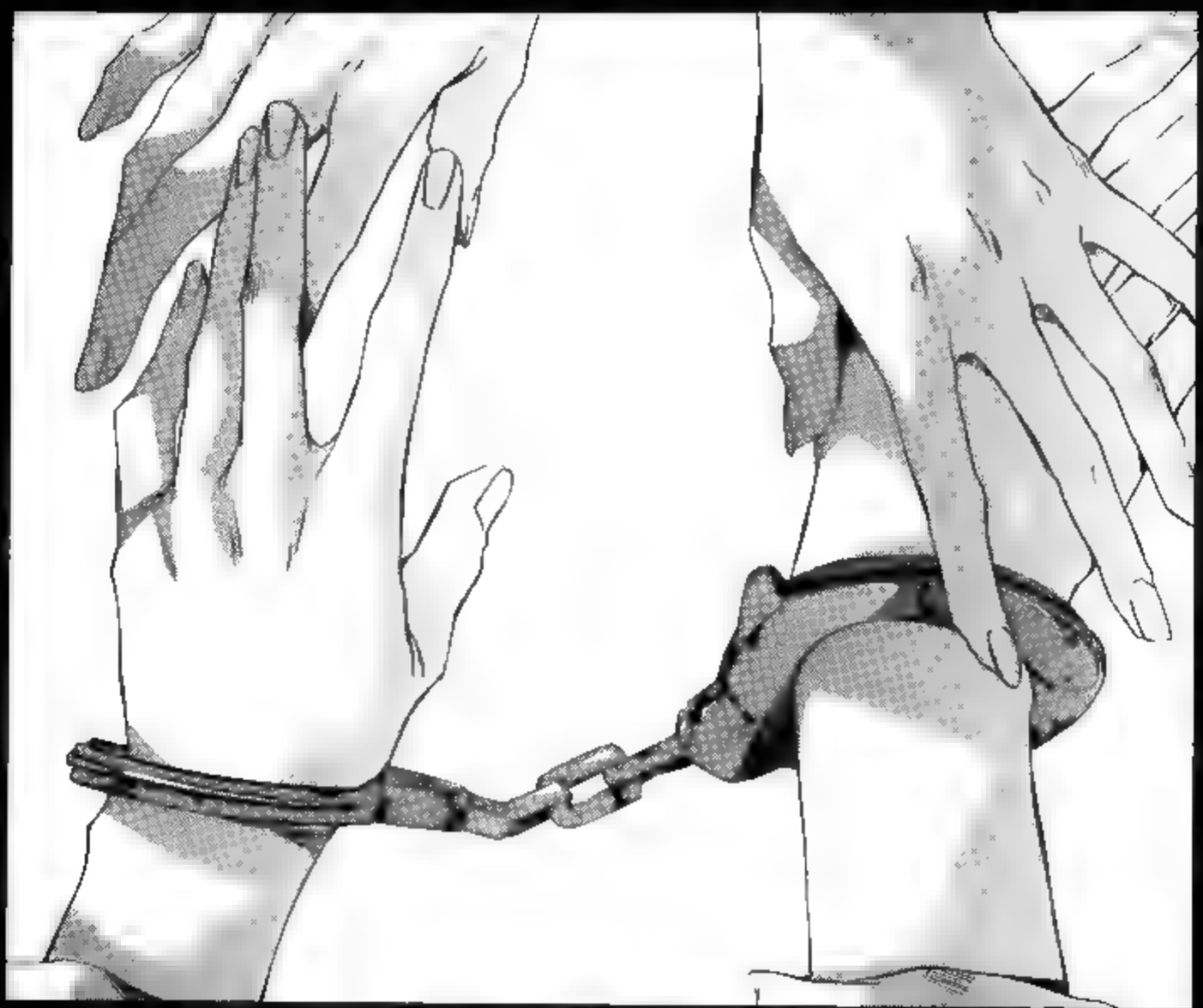
WITH YOU...

Watashitachi no Shiawasena Jikan

Our Happy Hours



From my fourth encounter with him onwards, we competed to see who could talk the most.



+THE 4TH MEETING+

SYLVIA

And so we continued to talk, even about trivial little things, and even if our throats became sore....

Today may be the last day...

We were only granted 30 minutes every Thursday.

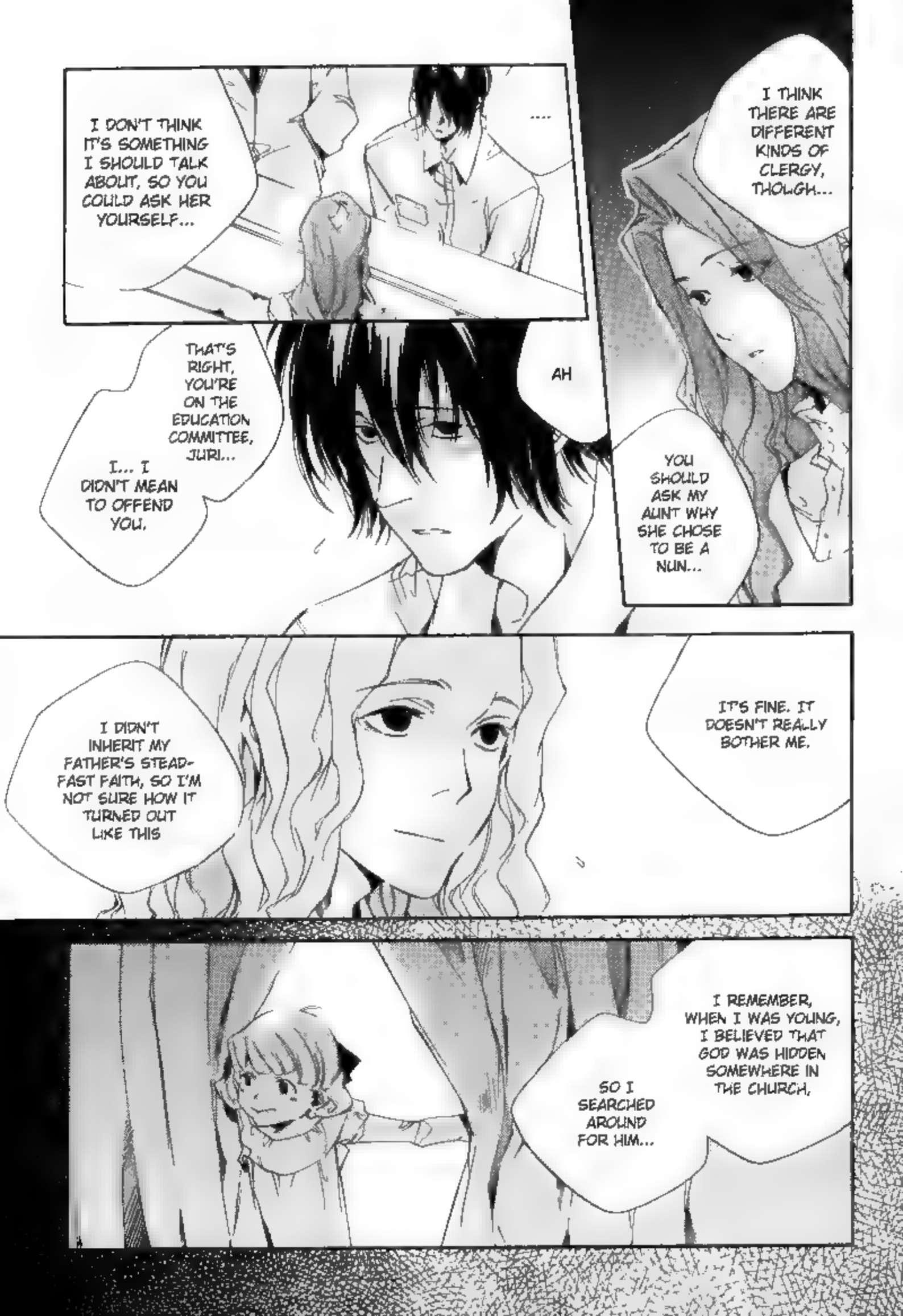

IT IS WINTER, AFTER ALL ...
IT'S REALLY BEEN COMING DOWN LATELY.
I WISH IT'D LET UP, THOUGH.
I CAN'T STAND THE COLD...
NOW, NOW, NOTHING WRONG WITH A BIT OF SNOW.
!
...


EH?
SEEMS LIKE HE'S STARTED SMILING EVERY SO OFTEN...
WHAT'S UP WITH INOUE?
HE'S BEEN AWFULLY CHEERFUL ON THURSDAYS LATELY...
NO. 3987..
IF YOU HEAR IT OFTEN ENOUGH,
SOMEHOW IT STARTS TO SOUND DIFFERENT...


He said..
that the sound of leaves rustling is different in every season...
changes little by little, every day...
And that their green color...
And seemed to be a better person than me by far.
He took an interest in the ordinary things that I usually ignored...


The only difference was...
...YOU REALLY DON'T SEE THESE OFTEN, DO YOU?
I... THAT ISN'T IT. I'M SORRY...


ANYWAY, HOW IS THE SISTER DOING?
I GUESS...
TRUE ENOUGH...
JUST SEEING A PRISONER IS UNUSUAL...
Haha
...
SHE'S FULLY HEALED.
SHE MIGHT BE COMING BY HERE NEXT WEEK...
...
HOW CAN I PUT THIS..
I STILL DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE AROUND THE CLERGY...
TO BE HONEST, IT SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE PUTTING ON A SHOW FOR ME..


I THINK THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF CLERGY, THOUGH...
YOU SHOULD ASK MY AUNT WHY SHE CHOSE TO BE A NUN...
....
I DON'T THINK IT'S SOMETHING I SHOULD TALK ABOUT, SO YOU COULD ASK HER YOURSELF...
AH
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, JURI...
I... I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU.
IT'S FINE. IT DOESN'T REALLY BOTHER ME.
I DIDN'T INHERIT MY FATHER'S STEADFAST FAITH, SO I'M NOT SURE HOW IT TURNED OUT LIKE THIS
I REMEMBER, WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I BELIEVED THAT GOD WAS HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN THE CHURCH.
SO I SEARCHED AROUND FOR HIM...


BUT...
THERE WAS ONE GOOD THING
BUT ONCE I FOUND OUT THAT I COULDN'T FIND HIM,
I BECAME PREJUDICED AS I AM NOW...
"SNOW DAYS FOR SYLVIA."
EVERY DAY I WOULD TEND TO MY MTOHER,
AND DO EVERYTHING I WAS TOLD, BUT ..
IT'S MY CHRISTIAN NAME...
IT DOESN'T SUIT ME, DOES IT?
SYLVIA?


I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO AND PLAY THE PIANO.
OR SIT WITH HER FOR LONG MEALS.
MY MOM WAS SENSITIVE TO THE COLD SO WHENEVER IT SNOWED SHE WOULD ALWAYS SPEND THE DAY UP IN HER ROOM.
I COULD STOP BEING THE USUAL "JURI" ON SNOW DAYS
SO I WENT AND DECIDED TO CALL THEM SYLVIA'S DAYS...
I'D PLAY IN THE SNOW ALONE.
AND THE CHILDREN I WAS PLAYING WITH WENT HOME.
WHEN IT GOT DARK.


IT FELT LIKE JUST A NAME COULD CHANGE ME INTO A DIFFERENT PERSON...
THINGS WERE MUCH SIMPLER WHEN I WAS A CHILD, AND THAT EASY LIFE WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.
VISITING HOURS ARE ALMOST OVER—
I'M SORRY...
CLINK
MS. MUTOU, THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO VISIT.
YOU HAVE A LECTURE THIS AFTERNOON, DON'T YOU?
THOSE 30 MINUTES REALLY WENT BY FAST.
HUH... IT'S ALREADY THAT TIME?


YES, BUT...
THE LECTURE IS OPTIONAL.
AND IT'S SNOWING...
STUDENTS AREN'T GOING TO SHOW UP FOR A CLASS THAT DOESN'T AFFECT THEIR GRADES.
SEE YOU...
I'LL ANNOUCE A SCHEDULE CHANGE AS USUAL.
AND SPEND THAT TIME READING OR SOMETHING.
TODAY'S A SNOW DAY.


EH?
IT'S SNOWING.
SO ISN'T IT "SYLVIA'S DAY"?
...


I CAN SWITCH YOU TO INDOOR REC
YUU, YOU'LL REALLY CATCH A COLD
IT SNOWED.
EH.. ?
BUT...
I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW DIFFERENT MY LIFE WOULD BE IF MY LITTLE BROTHER HADN'T BEEN AROUND.
AND WHEN I WAS WITH SOME OLD LADY WHO REEKED OF PERFUME,
WHEN I GOT CAUGHT SHOPLIFTING AND THE CLERK HIT ME,


ON SNOWY NIGHTS, IT WAS COLD, AND I JUST COULDN'T SLEEP ALONE...
EVEN IF I DIDN'T LIKE IT, I NEEDED KOU...
WHEN-EVER I'D THINK ABOUT ABANDONING HIM,
IT'D ALWAYS SNOW...
MY LIFE DIDN'T REALLY CHANGE...
THOUGH, EVEN AFTER HE WAS GONE...
EH...?
DO YOU...
WANT TO TAKE A CHRISTIAN NAME?
...


JUST LIKE
MS. MUTOU DID...
WHAT, YOU MEAN READ THE BIBLE AND LISTEN TO SERMONS?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HELP PEOPLE.
BESIDES, YOU JUST POINTED IT OUT TO HER, DIDN'T YOU?
THAT TODAY'S SYLVIA'S DAY...
Haha
ARE YOU KIDDING?
....


HMM...
MAYBE IF I CAN GET YOUR VISITING HOURS EXTENDED
EH...?
...
IF ALL GOES WELL, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO IT IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS.
WELL?
I THINK YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING BETTER, LITTLE BY LITTLE.
BOTH YOU AND HER...


LETTERS!
WHY DON'T YOU...
THAT'S IT!
YOU CAN SEND ONE LETTER A DAY...
SEND HER A LETTER?
FIND THEM DEPRESSING...?
WON'T SHE...
.....
...
SHE COMES HERE SPECIFICALLY TO SEE YOU.
DON'T WORRY




HEY, MISS!
!
WANT TO PLAY A GAME WITH US?
THERE ARE FIVE BOYS,
BUT ONLY US THREE GIRLS.
WE'LL LOSE THE SNOWBALL FIGHT FOR SURE...
I... I'D LIKE TO HELP OUT, BUT. .
I... HAVE TO...
Today is a snow day...


It's snowing,
so isn't it
"Sylvia's day"?
Ms. Mutou
Juri...


...Though, I've never written a letter to anyone before.
Please forgive me for writing to you so suddenly.


Please don't laugh if this letter seems odd to you..

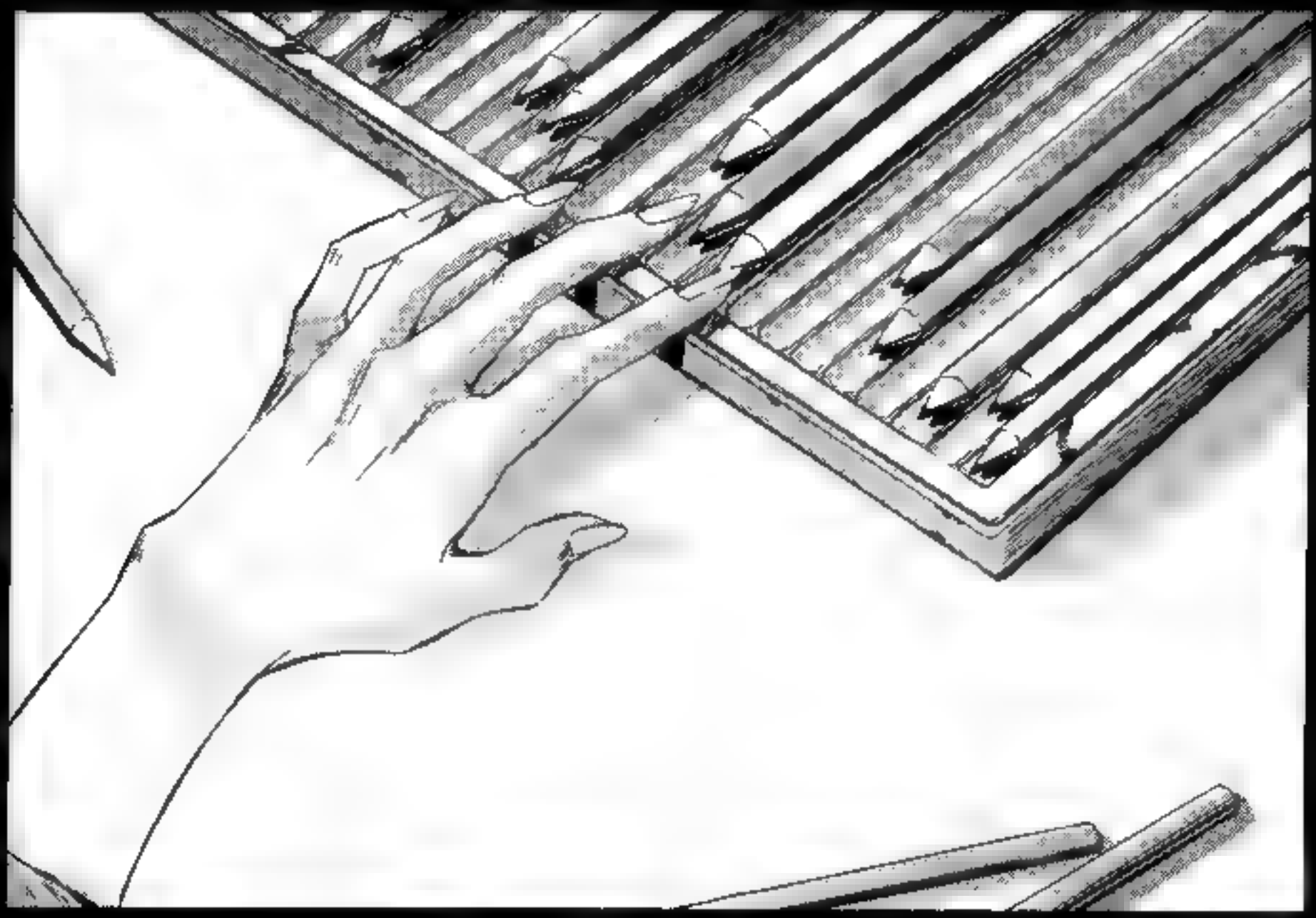

Thinking that even if I died now, I wouldn't have any regrets...
huff huff
So I've been doing whatever I wanted.
Until now, I've been thinking that I didn't care what happened to wealthy, prosperous people...


No matter how happy they seem...
But I was wrong...
The degree varies, but...
Hey! That's a foul!
Everyone has their own pain that they carry.
I'm groping for an answer...
How can I spend my days without giving in to it?


that even though your situation isn't the same, you're still a person.
and I realized for the first time
I met you,
I was actually really surprised.
The other day, when you asked to speak to me without bias,
and there was never anyone who really paid attention to what I said
Up until then, I'd never met anyone who looked at me so earnestly,


That I'm still alive...
FOR NOW...
DID YOU WRITE ONE?
I realized that I'm still right here—
I was happy.
PLEASE SEND IT...
In that moment...
Maybe it's not something anyone can understand,
but I was happy...





SKETCH BOOK

I decided to draw.

Because he had such a great regard for even trivial things...

I took notice of them for the first time.

Where I had thought there was only darkness, there are actually radiant, sparkling things that exist...



I...

I'D APPRECIATE IT...

NO ONE'S GOOD WHEN THEY FIRST START

IF YOU DON'T SHARE, YOU WON'T GET ANY BETTER.

That's right

PEOPLE WANT TO SHOW OFF ALL THE THINGS THEY'VE DRAWN.

ISN'T THAT WHY YOU COME TO THE ART CLUB?

I'M GLAD YOU SEE IT MY WAY.

WHAT'S THIS?

P...

PLEASE DON'T LAUGH, JUST GIVE ME SOME ADVICE...

hehe

hehe

MY STOMACH HURTS. .

MY .

hehe

heh

THAT'S HORRIBLE..

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD CARE ABOUT IT .

IT WILL REALLY CALM YOU DOWN.

ANYWAY, YOU HAVE TO SHOW US EVERY-THING.

EH...?

MS. MUTOU, YOU'VE GOTTEN PRETTY FRIENDLY LATELY.

YOUR MOOD HAS CHANGED.

RIGHT? I'M GLAD IT DID!

NOW IT'S GONE.

UNTIL A WHILE AGO, YOU HAD THIS "STAY AWAY FROM ME" VIBE.

HOW CAN I SAY THIS. .

Yeah, yeah

...

?

WHAT IS IT?

YOU SHOULD TAKE PART AS WELL. HERE.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

rummage

ANYWAY, SEE YOU TOMORROW

MS. MODEL.

ANYWAY, WE HAVE TO GET GOING.

WE'RE DESIGNING CLOTHES WITH A FLOWER MOTIF.

Eh?

IF THE THEME ISN'T GOOD, YOU WON'T BE INSPIRED TO DRAW.

?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE,

YUU...

TH... THANK YOU...

YOU TOO—

I'M GLAD YOU'RE DOING WELL.

YOU'RE PROBABLY A "GOOD PERSON".

BUT .

YOU'VE COME HERE FOR MANY YEARS NOW...

AND YOU'VE ASKED TO LOOK AFTER SEVERAL CONVICTS.

SISTER .

YES?

DON'T JUST DISAPPEAR...

BUT A PERSON'S GRUDGES...

WOULD YOU MIND..

LETTING ME GO?

BUT YOU ALSO GO TOO FAR.

PEOPLE LIKE YOU STAND FIRM, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,

.. ..

I'M THE SAME.

!

I HEARD THAT YOU STARTED TO STUDY TO GET A CHRISTIAN NAME ..

?

WAS IT BECAUSE OF JURI?

"AN ARM OR A LEG WOULD BE ENOUGH..."

"IF YOU'RE GOING TO APOLOGIZE WITH WORDS, THEN GIVE ME SOME PART OF YOURSELF."

"LOOK AT ME."

I DON'T COME HERE OUT OF MY OWN GOODWILL.

IT'S NOT AS VIRTUOUS AS THAT.

THE YOUNG MAN WAS ONLY 16, AND I KEPT ON YELLING AT HIM.

LOSING YOUR OWN CHILD... IS WORSE THAN LOSING A PART OF YOUR BODY.

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, I HELD A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM FROM THAT DAY ON...

BUT THEN, ONE DAY, HE COMMITTED SUICIDE IN PRISON...

YEARS AGO, WHEN MY SON WAS HIT BY A MOTORCYCLE AND KILLED,

I WAS CERTAIN THAT I WAS THE MOST UNFORTUNATE WOMAN ALIVE.

I TRIED TO TELL MYSELF THAT HE DESERVED TO DIE, BUT...

THAT GREW LESS AND LESS EFFECTIVE.

IT WAS A HEAVY BURDEN...

AND THEN... LITTLE JURI WAS THE ONE WHO SAID IT.

But you hated him when he was alive,

So why are you sad he's dead? You're weird, Aunt Monica.

JUST AS YOU SAID,

THOUGH THOSE WORDS WERE SAID IN PASSING BY A CHILD,

IT BECAME MY REASON FOR CHOOSING THIS PATH IN LIFE.

GRUDGES DON'T SIMPLY DISAPPEAR.

AND I KNOW THAT NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE TELL YOU TO COMFORT YOU, IT JUST SOUNDS LIKE SARCASM.

I'm sorry...

I WISH I COULD HAVE COME TO BELIEVE HIM...

BUT

WHEN HE SPOKE TO ME WITH HIS HEAD BOWED AND TEARS IN HIS EYES...

I'm sorry, ma'am...

EVEN SO, WHEN I WENT TO VISIT HIM AT THE PRISON THAT DAY..

IT'S SELFISH, BUT I'M THAT KIND OF PERSON AS WELL..

I'LL BE GOING NOW.

IF I STAY TOO LONG, YOU WON'T HAVE MUCH TIME WITH JURI.

CREAK

...

I SHOULDN'T CONTINUE THIS IF IT CAUSES YOU DISTRESS...

SO IN THE END, THIS IS FOR ME.

THAT...

ISN'T TRUE...

IT'S TRUE THAT I DON'T LIKE THE CLERGY...

I DON'T MEAN TO ASK YOU.

TO LEAVE ME ALONE BECAUSE YOU'RE CAUSING ME DISTRESS.

TH...

THANK YOU.

THERE ARE A LOT OF CONVICTS WHO NEED YOU.

AND YOU WERE EVEN INJURED.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO UNDO WHAT YOU'VE DONE, COMING HERE UNTIL NOW.

HOW CAN I SAY THIS.

EVER SINCE "THAT DAY", SHE'S REFUSED TO FORM DEEP CONNECTIONS WITH PEOPLE.

SINCE REJECTION HURTS PEOPLE,

SHE'S SPENT HER LIFE MAKING OTHER PEOPLE DISLIKE HER ON PURPOSE.

?

LATELY, JURI .

HAS BEEN GOING TO AN ART CLUB AND DRAWING...

YOU REALLY ARE..

A LOT LIKE HER...

!

KNOCK

KNOCK

...

AND YOU ARE THE ONE WHO CHANGED HER..

MAYBE THAT'S WHY . SHE'S CHANGED...

OH, YOU'RE HERE, AUNT MONICA.

WELL, SO MUCH FOR RUSHING.

HAHA...

OH, WHAT?

WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

!

THAT YOU AND YUU...

ARE A LOT ALIKE...

I SEE...

WELL, SEE YOU LATER...

YEAH...

CLACK

EH...?

I'LL BE GOING.

I HAVE ANOTHER MEETING SOON...

THAT YOU WERE DRAWING AT AN ART CLUB...

OH..

WHAT WERE YOU REALLY TALKING ABOUT?

AUNT MONICA OUTED ME..

O... OH.

EH..?

NO...

I'M NOT.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU COULD DRAW AS WELL.

YOU REALLY ARE TALENTED, JURI.

SO...

I WANTED TO AT LEAST DRAW THEM TO SHOW YOU...

FROM OUR TALKS, YOU REALLY SEEMED TO BE ATTACHED TO HOW THINGS LOOK OUTSIDE,

BUT DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP.

I'M REALLY BAD

Y...

YOU'VE BEEN SENDING ME LETTERS, RIGHT?

I WANT TO WRITE BACK, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT FOR IT...

N...
NO WAY.
AT LEAST GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME...
I'D LIKE TO SEE IT
...
A SKETCH BOOK?
IS THAT...
NOPE.
IF I DIE TOMORROW,
I WOULD REGRET IT...
DON'T LAUGH TOO MUCH.
I I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU.

THAT'S PRETTY GOOD, ISN'T IT?

WHAT?

MOST OF ALL, THAT PART.

THE CURVES ON THE APPLE ARE DRAWN REALLY WELL.

R... REALLY?

IT'S AN APPLE AND SOME ANTS, RIGHT?

APPLE?

YEAH

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S A WATER FOUNTAIN.

I... I'M SORRY!

IT... IT'S A WATER FOUNTAIN AND SOME KIDS...

I'VE TALKED ABOUT PEOPLE "LOSING THEIR NERVE". BUT THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER ACTUALLY EXPERIENCED IT MYSELF!

YOU SEE, THOSE KIDS—..

EH?

THE KIDS WERE JUMPING INSIDE THE FOUNTAIN.

THAT'S RIGHT! WHEN I DREW THIS,

I'M JUST CHATTERING AWAY.

I'M SORRY.

OH.. WHOOPS.



AND YET...

AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW IT IS FOR ME...

IN THE END, YOUR FEAR MAKES YOU HESITATE...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU HATE SOMEONE AND WANT TO KILL THEM,

I... I'M SORRY FOR ASKING ALL OF A SUDDEN...

BUT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW...

AND TO LASH OUT AT THEM...

TO HARBOR SUCH GREAT HATRED FOR PEOPLE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW,

I DREW IT FOR THE STUDENTS...

EH...?

OH, RIGHT.

RUSTLE

...

STRANGE, ISN'T IT?

This is your teacher!

WHAT'S THAT..?

SOMEDAY YOU'LL WEAR THIS, HUH...

...

I WAS GIVEN THE THEME.

...JURI...

YOU LOOK LIKE A BRIDE

WHO WOULD MARRY A GIRL LIKE ME...

I WON'T.

I'D LIKE TO SEE IT .

I'D LIKE TO SEE IT.

...

MS. MUTOU

MR. INOUE...

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY.

EH...?

HM...

IF YOU COULD, PLEASE CHECK IN ON HIM...

I ASKED HIM...

I SAID TOO MUCH AGAIN.

WHY HE KILLED THEM.

HOW CAN I PUT THIS...

THE MORE I TALK TO HIM, THE MORE I QUESTION IT.

.....

PEOPLE ARE NOT ALWAYS BAD.

BOTH YOU AND HIM CAN BE GOOD SOMETIMES, AND BAD SOMETIMES AS WELL, RIGHT?

DID HE REALLY ...

KILL ALL THOSE PEOPLE FOR NO REASON...?

WHAT HAPPENS IN A PERSON'S HEART...

I DON'T KNOW...

I JUST DON'T KNOW...

Ms. Mutou Juri,

Have your drawings been going well?

MS. JURI!

I really look forward to being able to see them again.

DID YOU FINISH IT?

If you could...

GOT IT!

J...

JUST A LITTLE MORE..

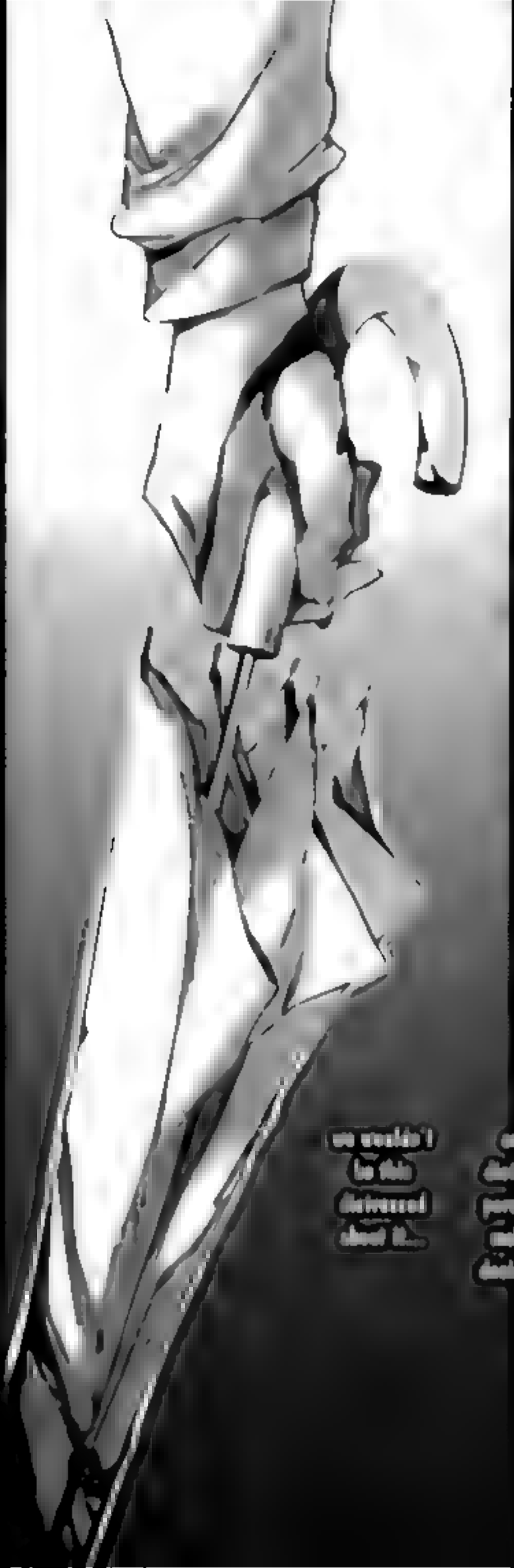
my face sometime

Please draw

If you draw a picture of me,

maybe I'll be able to like it...





THE 6TH MEETING

THE SECRET LETTER

The rumor that people who have seen a criminal be executed gives to criminals who used the death penalty repeatedly...

The rumor that people who have witnessed a murder give about the existence of the death penalty...

If these rumors were to finally satisfy our egos,

we wouldn't be able to deterred about it...

and some distinguished person was to make a firm decision on it,

BUT IT'S REALLY SOMETHING

COME CHRISTMAS NEXT WEEK, HE'LL ALREADY BE ABLE TO RECEIVE A NAME

AH, I'M SORRY FOR ASKING YOU TO COME ALL OF A SUDDEN.

IT'S FINE

YES

YUU HAS BEEN READING SEVERAL BOOKS A DAY.

OH?

CAN'T YOU HAVE A STYLIST DO IT?

BUT I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT DOING IT MYSELF. SO I CALLED YOU.

SINCE HE'S BEEN TRYING SO HARD. I WANTED TO GIVE HIM A HAIRCUT SO HE WOULD LOOK MORE PROPER.

IT'S A BIT OF A PAIN.

SO WE HAVEN'T CALLED HIM FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW

THE STYLIST

WHEN HE WAS CUTTING YUU'S HAIR THE LAST TIME

YUU YANKED THE SCISSORS FROM HIM AND TRIED TO KILL HIMSELF

YEAH... IF I WORE ONE OF THOSE,

EVEN THE INMATES WHO DON'T KNOW ME WOULD CALL ME 'SIR'.

THAT REMINDS ME, MR. INOUE. YOU AREN'T WEARING A GUARD'S UNIFORM.

DO YOU NOT LIKE THE BLAZERS?

...

IT'S KIND OF RIDICULOUS, ISN'T IT?

IT'S NOT LIKE I DO ANYTHING SPECIAL FOR THEM...

BUT...

.....

SINCE I DON'T WANT TO RELY ON THAT PRETENSE,

I DECIDED TO WEAR THIS INSTEAD...

I...

I'M NERVOUS...

AND THEN I'LL USE THIS AFTER...

A... ANYWAY, GO AHEAD AND TRIM HIS HAIR A BIT WITH THE SCISSORS FIRST,

THAT WON'T DO AT ALL. YOUR HAIR GROWS SO FAST...

BUT YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GET READY FOR US TO MESS UP

IT'S MY OWN FAULT...

UM... I DON'T MIND KEEPING IT LIKE THIS. .

...

SURE...

INOUE JIROU IS A PRETTY COMMON NAME, RIGHT?

IF I COULD BE SOMEONE ELSE, I'D AT LEAST WANT A NAME I LIKE...

BUT I WONDER WHAT KIND OF CHRISTIAN NAME YOU'LL TAKE.

IF IT WERE ME, I'D WANT A LONG, ELEGANT NAME.

ANY-THING ..

WHAT KIND OF NAME DO YOU WANT, YUU?

IS FINE FOR ME...

BEING ANYONE BESIDES MYSELF...

SINCE I CAN'T IMAGINE...

THERE YOU GO...

WELL, IT'S NOT GREAT, BUT

Yeah

YEAH MAYBE...

BUT IT'S NOT BAD FOR AN AMATEUR HAIRCUT... RIGHT?

MY HEAD KIND OF FEELS LIGHTER...

LET'S SEE...

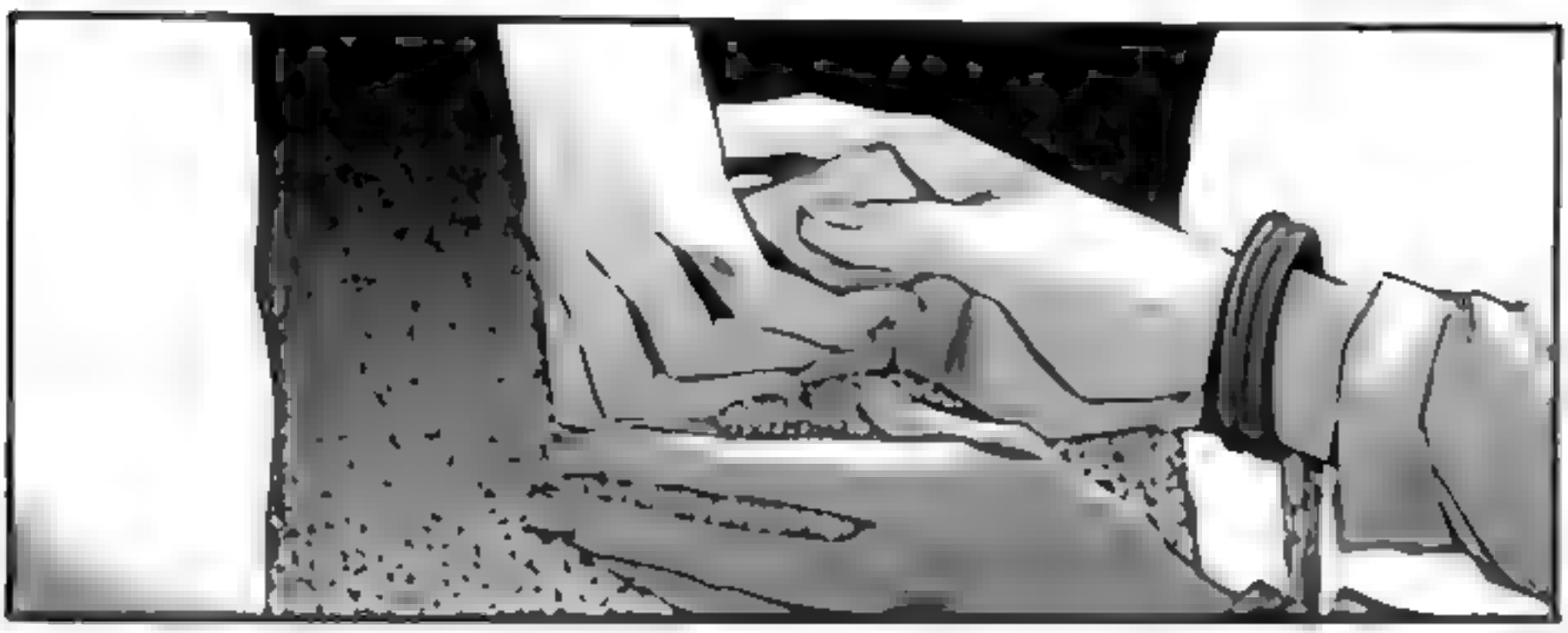
WAIT HERE.

I'LL GO FIND A MIRROR.

YOU WANT TO SEE IT TOO, RIGHT, YUU?




did you
kill them?
Why...



!

FOUND ONE..

FWIP

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT'LL DO, RIGHT?

...

A few
days ago...

But since you'd asked me to speak with you honestly,

I couldn't bring myself to lie to you.

You asked me a question.

I was really torn over how to answer...

Why... did you kill them?

I KNOW A PLACE I WANT TO GO?

THERE ARE LOTS OF GIRLS AND IT'S REALLY GREAT

SHUT UP AND GO AWAY.

I decided to write you a letter...

HEY, MISTER.

ISN'T IT LONELY DRINKING ALONE?

THERE ARE MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS, TOO.

Let me tell you about something that happened years ago...

When I used to spend my time...

finding worthless adults and forcing my pain onto them.

I WONDER WHAT THE OTHER SIDE OF A HUMAN EYEBALL LOOKS LIKE...

AHHH!

HOLD HIS HEAD DOWN!

!

I didn't really know if he was some government secretary, or a doctor's son,

or if he had some fancy title like the rumors said

He never actually told us to do anything

He'd turn up every now and then and drop some cash on the floor

The guy was twisted but back then I didn't care about anyone but myself

So it didn't really bother me...

KIDS SHOULDN'T DO STUFF LIKE THAT

LET GO!

OW!

I KNOW YOU DO!

YOU DO IT ALL THE TIME!

SHUT UP!

BRO.

There came a day when I started caring...



I WILL!

YOU'LL LOOK AFTER HIM?

THEN...

A CAT?

NO WAY HE STINKS.

whoa

I'LL GIVE HIM A BATH!

WHAT~

IF I LET YOU KEEP HIM, WI... YOU GO TO SCHOOL?

FORGET IT, THEN.

PSH...

IF I HAVE TO..

They made me feel like I could become a different person...

They were just ordinary words, but...

LET GO!

!

I SAID LET HIM GO...

LET HIM GO!

WHAT WAS THAT FOR..

...

YUU, PHONE CALL...

IT SEEMS HE WAS CHASING HIS CAT ...

WHEN HE WAS STRUCK BY THE VEHICLE...

THE BODY OF THE CAT WAS NEARBY...

LOOK,

SHE'S SAYING, "HELLO, MISTER"...

OH,
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
SHE SAYS, "FEEL BETTER" ...
HM?
WHAT'S WRONG?
HM
WHEN THEIR HEAD IS RUN OVER?
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE SOUND A PERSON MAKES...
Bro
WORTH 200,000 YEN, HMM...

How?

Oh... Your little brother died, right?

I'm sorry, bro.

If I weren't here...

Then...

I'll carry on in his place.









I'll always be there...

I occurred to me
that someday
I'd probably die
in that line

As I
stared at
his dead
body

Soon I had
come to accept that
were next as bad
as sort of people

HOW

And...

KILL HIM!!

Saying that I've killed indiscriminately isn't wrong at all.

to make me lie and say that I regretted killing him...

I couldn't find enough of a reason to live

GIVE THEM BACK!

PLEASE CALM DOWN.

IF YOU WON'T, THEN...

GIVE ME MY GIRLS BACK!

I understood that woman's feelings very well.

SOMEONE KILL HIM..!

More than anyone else, I was the one who chose the punishment of 'death'.

SOMEONE

about being here in prison...

I have no complaints

I understand being hated all too well

so that's what I wanted.

if I'm gone that woman may be able to live a little better

I have no regrets

So please...

let's drop this issue

!



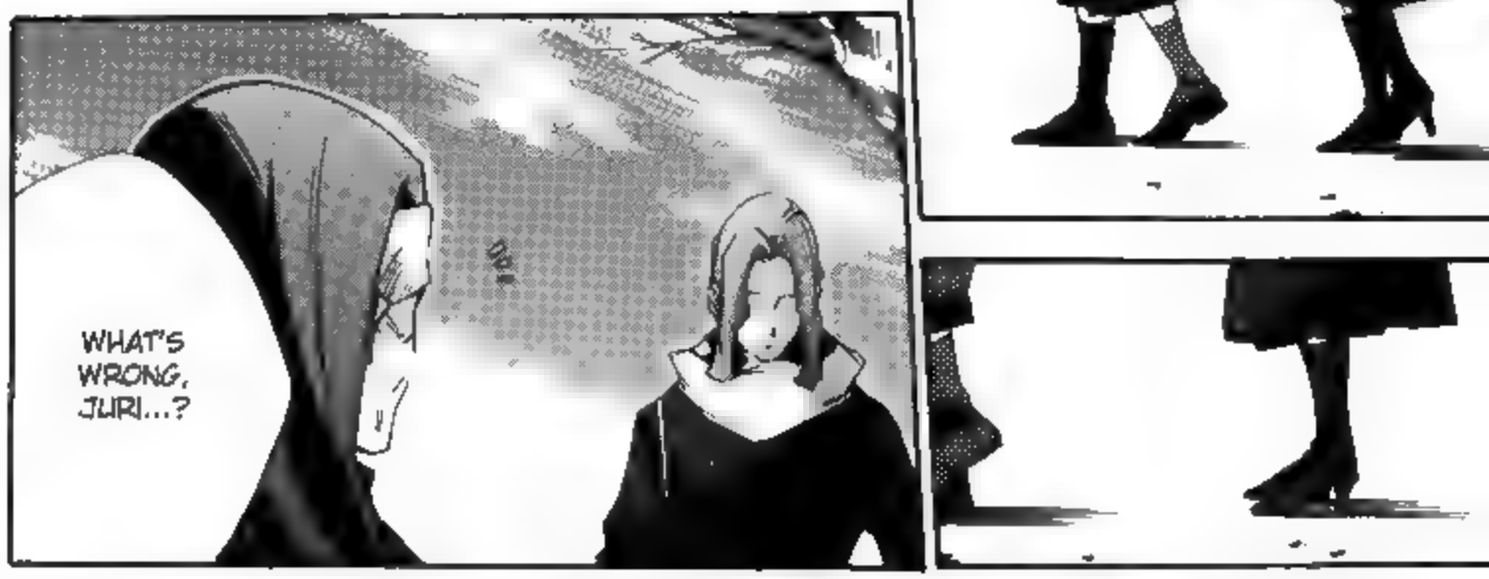

†THE 7TH MEETING†
AUGUSTINE
PLEASE HELP ME OUT, BROTHER.
MAYBE YOU CAN GET HIS SENTENCE REDUCED...
YOU HEARD HIS STORY
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
WHO WOULD BELIEVE A STORY FROM A GUY ON DEATH ROW?


YOU REALLY CAME?
OF COURSE WE DID.
Next Thursday is Christmas,
So my aunt and I attended Yuu's baptism.
His Christian name is Augustine.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS.
...
I LOOK LIKE ONE OF THE LUNCH LADIES AT SCHOOL DON'T I?
Ha ha
The name that Aunt Monica gave him is the actual name of Saint Monica's son.


PLEASE SMILE
YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
AND YOU'RE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL WHEN YOU SMILE.
I DIDN'T WRITE THAT LETTER TO MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE THAT.
WAIT.
IF... IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU MY BLESSING TOO ..

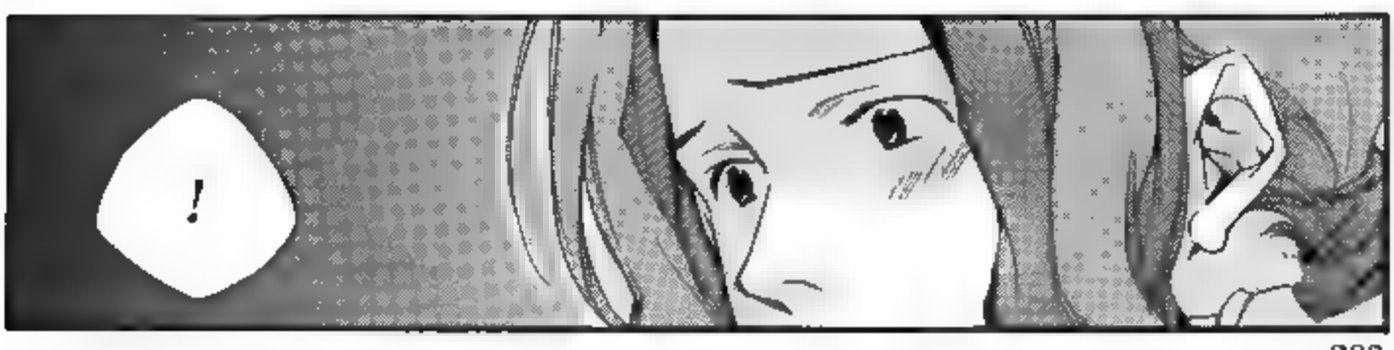



CON-
GRATU-
-ATIONS
...


WHAT'S WRONG, JURI...?


I'VE BEEN SCARED OF TIME PASSING...
LATELY...


IT LOOKS LIKE YOU UNDERSTAND THE FEAR OF BEING LEFT BEHIND ..
EVEN SO, RIGHT NOW, I'M AFRAID OF TOMORROW COMING...
I WONDER WHY. .
THE DAYS HAVE ALWAYS JUST MADE ME REMEMBER PAIN,
SO I'VE HATED EVERY ONE OF THEM...


!


LIVING AMONGST PEOPLE HAS BEEN AGONY.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS AFRAID OF PEOPLE GETTING TO KNOW ME, AND I COULD NEVER MAKE A SINGLE FRIEND.
THESE PAST TEN YEARS OR SO.
WHEN YOU FIRST TRIED TO KILL YOURSELF?
DID YOU KNOW THAT I'VE FELT THAT SAME FEAR THREE TIMES SINCE THE DAY IN HIGH SCHOOL...
HE TOLD ME HIMSELF, THAT HE HAS NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT WHERE HE STANDS...
I WONDER... WHAT I'D DO IF HIS SENTENCE WAS CARRIED OUT TOMORROW...
I'M THE ONE WHO'S FRIGHTENED.


JURI
..
WANT TO RELY ON "THURSDAYS" ANY MORE THAN I DO ALREADY.
I DON'T...


WHEN HE'S GONE...
THERE ARE ALREADY SO MANY THINGS THAT I'LL FORGET HOW TO LIVE FOR AGAIN.




AH..
YOUR HAIR'S CUT, AND YOUR NAME'S AL...
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
IT WON'T FALL WHEN YOU WANT IT TO.
THE SNOW ...
AUGUSTINE?
YEP, THAT'S IT.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE REBORN?
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY REGRETS.
BUT FOR A WHILE NOW...
?


BUT...
TO BE HONEST, GETTING THIS NAME...
WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO BE A GOOD WAY TO KILL TIME...


I'M SCARED.
OF SEEING HER.


EH ..
YUU...
THE THINGS I COULDN'T HAVE, EVEN IF ANOTHER ME TRIED FOR THEM..
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW THAT I WOULDN'T WANT THAT LIFE...
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF LIFE I'D HAVE HAD...
HAD I NOT KILLED THAT GUY,
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, THE THINGS THAT I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER COME TO MIND.


I NEVER USED TO CARE WHEN I DIED...
BUT...
NOW I WAIT FOR THURSDAYS TO COME...
I'm sure you haven't realized...
THAT'S RIGHT, TODAY'S ONLY MONDAY, ISN'T IT?
IT'S STILL QUITE A WHILE UNTIL THURSDAY...
Ms. Mutou Juri...
THAT'S PRETTY SAD, ISN'T IT?
I REALIZED I'M CHASING AFTER DAY.



I'M AFRAID...

If only the entire week was Thursdays...





†THE LAST MEETING†

THE OPENED PIANO

There are more things that I cared about.
There were also things I didn't want to lose.

To the same extent, there were also more
things that I didn't want to see, and more
things that I thought would be horrible.

I know that, in life,
both sides are essential—


I SAID, MS. JURI!
THWACK
OW...
S-SORRY
GEEZ, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO CALL YOUR NAME?
YOU SAID YOU'D PLAY VOLLEYBALL DURING LUNCH BREAK, RIGHT?
I'LL GO THERE NOW.
AND NOW FOR OUR NEXT STORY.
AH...
TODAY...
THE TWO FOLLOWING INMATES WHO WERE ON DEATH ROW WERE EXECUTED.


ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE—
?
MS. JURI?


IF YOU WOULD LIKE, WE— .
YUU'S BIRTHDAY IS ACTUALLY NEXT THURSDAY.
...AND ALSO. .
000


EH ..
Huh?
MS. MUTOU, DID YOU HEAR ME?


OH
REALLY?
IT'S OKAY
YUU'S BIRTHDAY IS NEXT WEEK.
I WAS THINKING OF HAVING A SMALL, PRIVATE PARTY...
AH .
I'M SO SORRY. MY MIND WAS WANDERING... WHAT WAS THAT?


PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR A BIT...
OH, WHAT IS IT?
SO I FIGURED THAT YOU'D WANT TO BE THERE FOR SURE...
MR. INOUE, URGENT PHONE CALL FOR YOU...
CLACK
I GUESS NOT
YOU AREN'T VERY CHEERY TODAY.
NO... I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVEN BE ALIVE FOR THIS LONG, SO..
EH .
DO YOU...
WANT ANYTHING FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY?


I CAN'T SAY I'LL GET YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT,
BUT LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT YOU'D LIKE ..
...
THE PIANO...
IF YOU CAN, I'D LIKE...
TO HEAR YOU PLAY THE PIANO ONE MORE TIME...
N—NO, IT'S OKAY.
WHAT WAS I THINKING
I'M SORRY. PLEASE FORGET ABOUT IT.

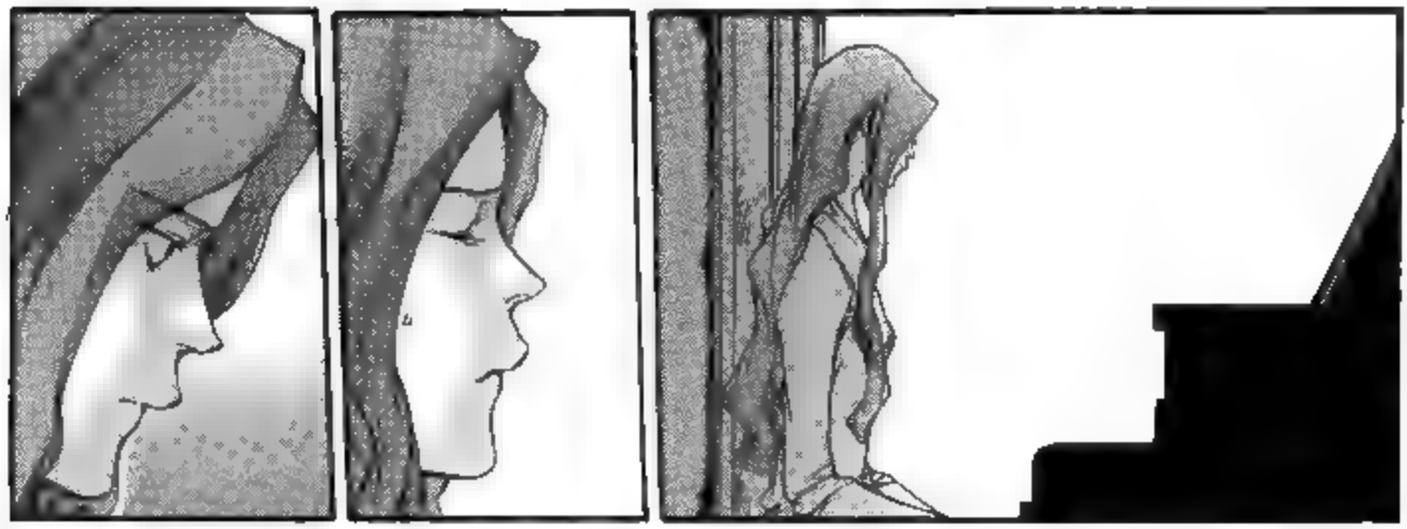

EH...
I'LL PLAY...
AND IN RETURN...
WILL YOU LIVE ANOTHER YEAR FOR ME?
!


HOW TO ENJOY THE IDLE BANTER OF MY STUDENTS,
?
AS FOR THAT ..
THERE'S MORE TO MY DAYS THAN JUST THE PAIN
AND THAT WHEN I LOOK AROUND JUST A LITTLE BIT,
YOU'VE TAUGHT ME...
WHO WILL SMILE AND BE HAPPY FOR ME...
THAT EVEN IF I LOOK DOWN, THERE ARE PEOPLE...
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S UNFAIR?
HOW CAN YOU TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE...
AND THEN DIE ALONE?



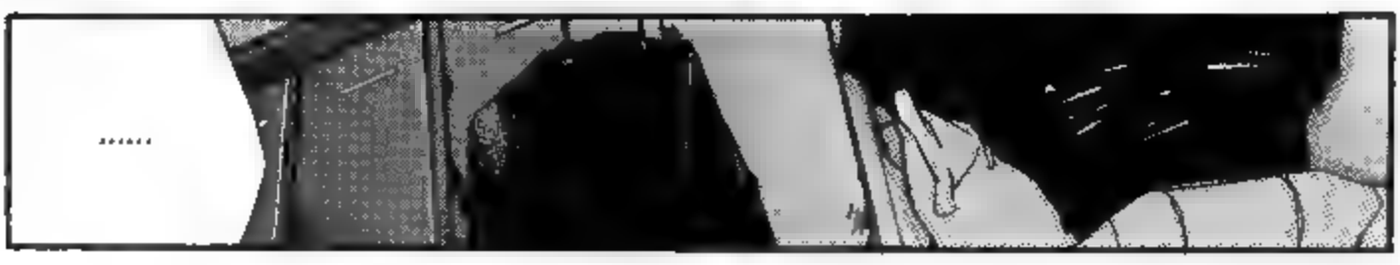



One more time...
I'd like to hear you play the piano.
One more time...

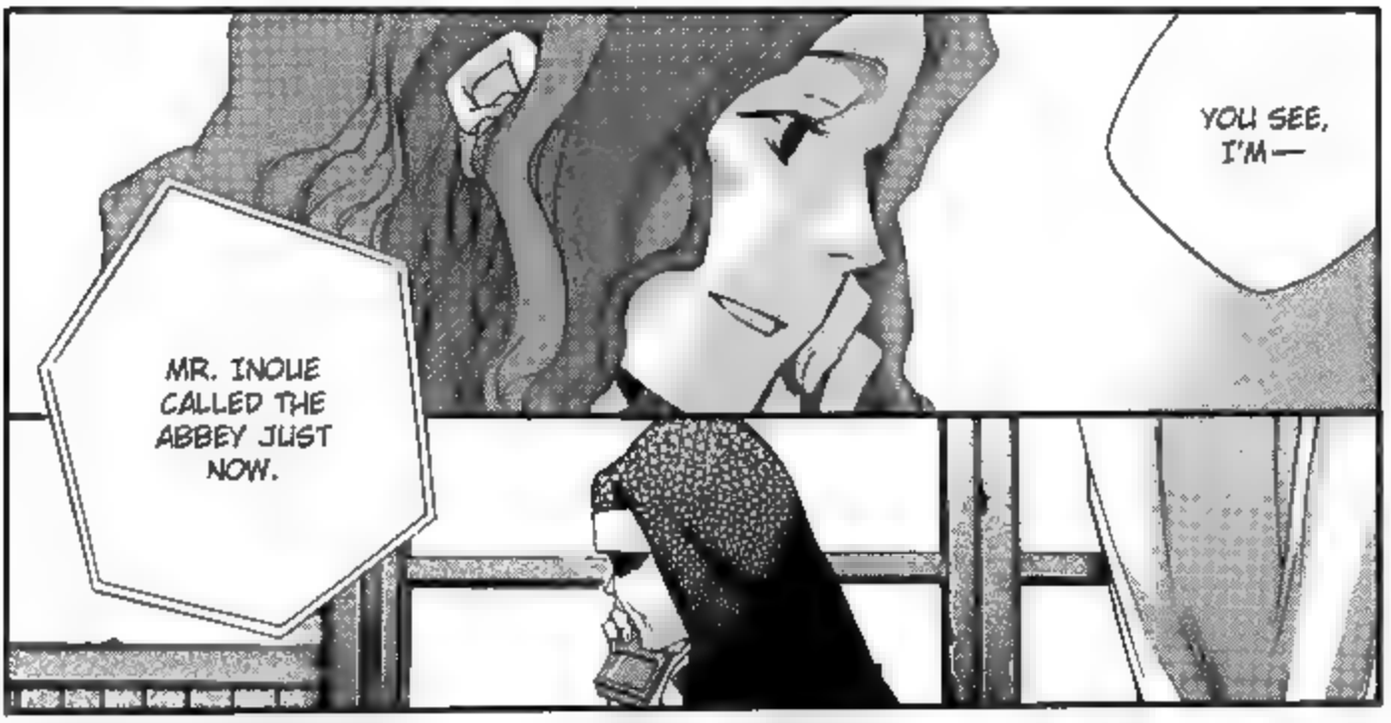




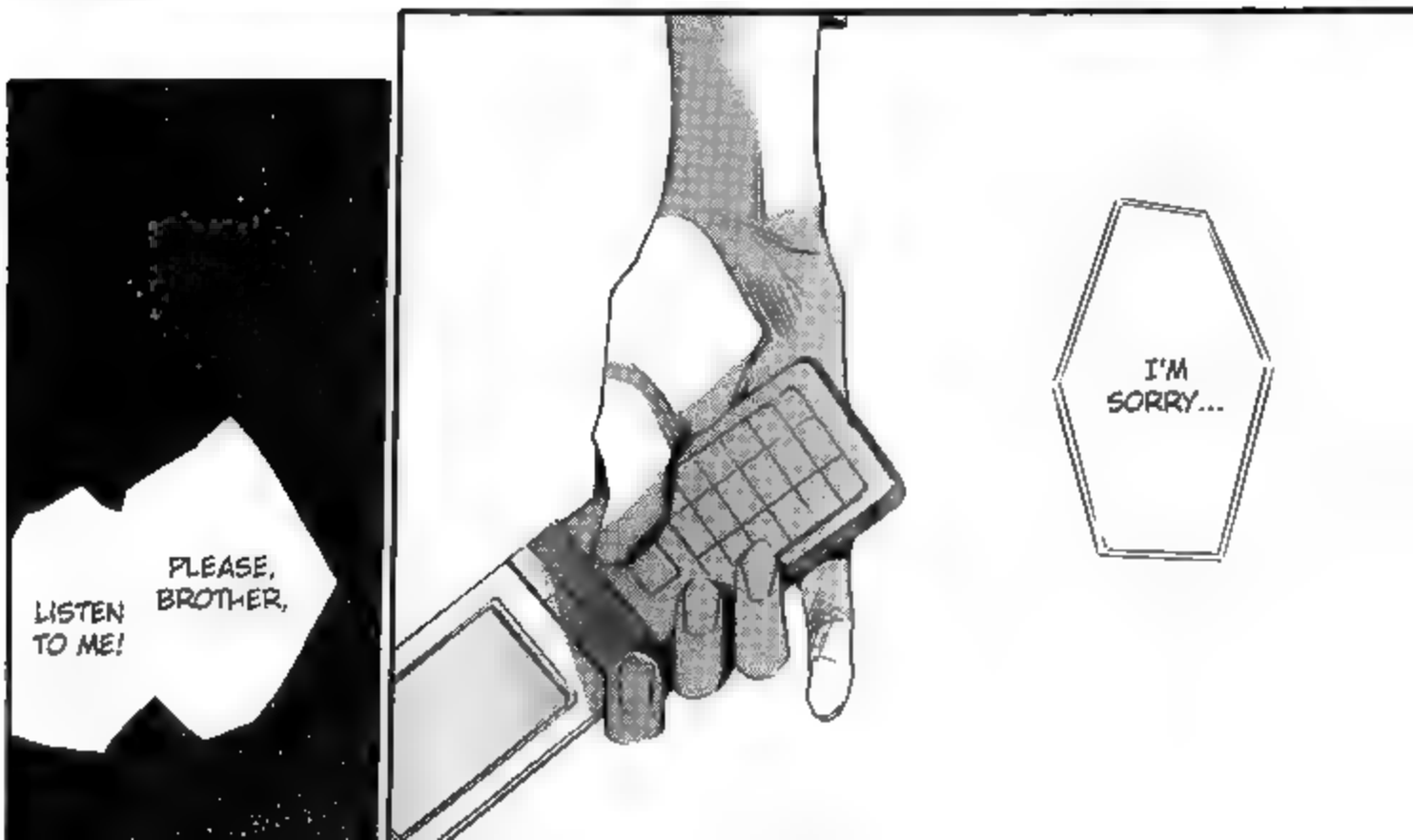

NOW, NOW, IT MUST BE HARD ON THE HIGHER-UPS, TOO.
MUST BE FUN HAVING TO HEAR EVERYONE COMPLAIN.
AND THEN A BUNCH OF EXECUTION ORDERS COME BACK TO BACK
YOU START TO WONDER HOW MANY YEARS IT'S GOING TO BE,
BUT THIS IS REALLY RANDOM...


.....


BZZZ.
YES?
JURI?
OH, AUNT MONICA.
PERFECT TIMING. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU.


YOU SEE, I'M—
MR. INOUE CALLED THE ABBEY JUST NOW.

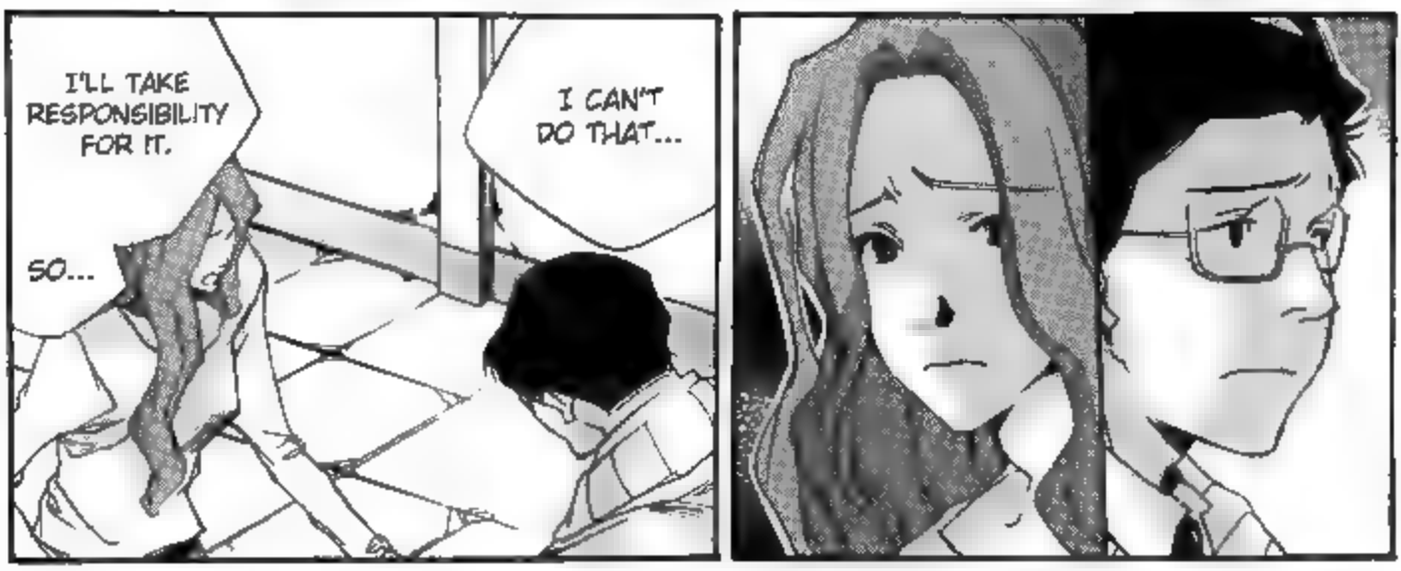

I'M SORRY, JURI
EH...

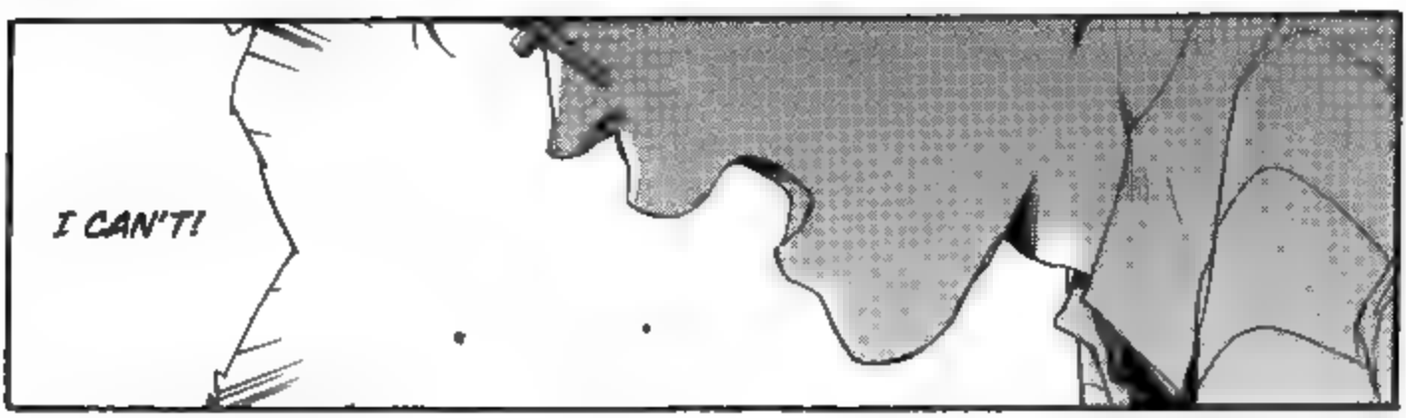

PLEASE, BROTHER, LISTEN TO ME!
I'M SORRY...


Dreaming of death...
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
I'M HANGING UP.
blip
WAIT—
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
TO TRY THIS NOW, WHEN HE WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH SO LONG AGO—
I KNOW THAT! BUT STILL—.
is nothing more than proof that you're alive,
and just living and letting live is a part of life.
brzz
brzz
I've only just realized that now...


MR. INOUE!


LET ME SEE HIM!
I... I'M SORRY, MR. INOUE. I TRIED TO STOP HER, BUT...


I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT.
SO...
I CAN'T DO THAT...


I CAN'T!


HOW CAN THAT BE..
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST LET HIM KNOW THAT HE'S GOING TO DIE TOMORROW?
ARE YOU GOING TO LET HIM SPEND HIS LAST NIGHT HERE WITHOUT KNOWING A THING?
I CAN'T LET HIM KNOW THAT HIS SENTENCE WILL BE CARRIED OUT TOMORROW MORNING.
SO YOU SHOULD TELL HIM—
FROM THE MOMENT THE SENTENCE IS PASSED, THEY ALL KNOW THAT THIS DAY IS COMING
ARE PREPARED TO DIE EVERY MORNING.
CONVICTS ON DEATH ROW...


EACH MORNING, THEY FEAR THE SOUND OF THE GUARDS' FOOTSTEPS...
AND EACH NIGHT, THEY LIVE WITHOUT KNOWING WHETHER OR NOT THEY'LL HAVE A TOMORROW
BUT YUU...
WAS ALWAYS THE OTHER WAY AROUND...
HE WAS RELIEVED WHEN MORNING CAME...
AND THEN WHEN HE FOUND OUT THAT HIS PUNISHMENT WASN'T THAT DAY, HE'D GO CRAZY AND TRY TO KILL HIMSELF...
JUST RECENTLY,
HE TOLD ME HE WAS SCARED...


BECAUSE SEEING YOU MADE HIM WANT TO LIVE A LITTLE LONGER.
HE'S SCARED...


BUT ..
NO MATTER HOW FAR I THINK BACK, I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER YUL SMILING. .
I'M HAPPY FOR HIM. HE'S REGRETTED WHAT HE DID,
AND HAS WAITED FOR THIS DAY TO COME.
SO I THINK THAT THE ONE PERSON WHO SHOULD REMEMBER HIS SMILING FACE
HE WANTS YOU TO BE ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE...


JUST YOU .
IS THE ONE WHO CHANGED HIM.

Where we were didn't matter.

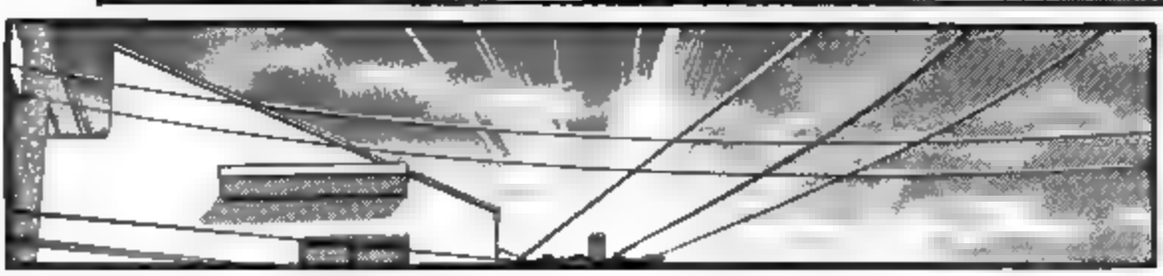
Be it on the other side of a tall, tall wall,

or in a prison and out of reach...

In the end, I couldn't find a good answer...

As to the difference between him, who is labeled a criminal, and me, who might have been...








In return...
Will you live another year for me?
TAP
TAP
TAP
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAS ASKED ME TO LIVE...
CLACK


HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG, MR. INOUE?
YOU'RE ALL DRESSED UP—...
TODAY...
...
I SEE...
I'M GOING...
TO DIE TODAY...


I'M GLAD YOU WERE THE ONE TAKING CARE OF ME..
I'VE ASKED A LOT OF YOU.
MS. MUTOU ASKED ME NOT TO LIE TO YOU...
I DON'T WANT TO, EITHER...
THANK YOU.

Ms. Mutou—

I was told to write
a last will, but...

So I wrote
a letter to you,
like always...

But even if I had
possessions that were
worth passing on,
I have no family to
give them to.

I never could have imagined
how shocked I'd been...

When I first saw you
at the prison.

On that day that
my brother died and
I was left alone,

Even you disappeared
from the television screens...

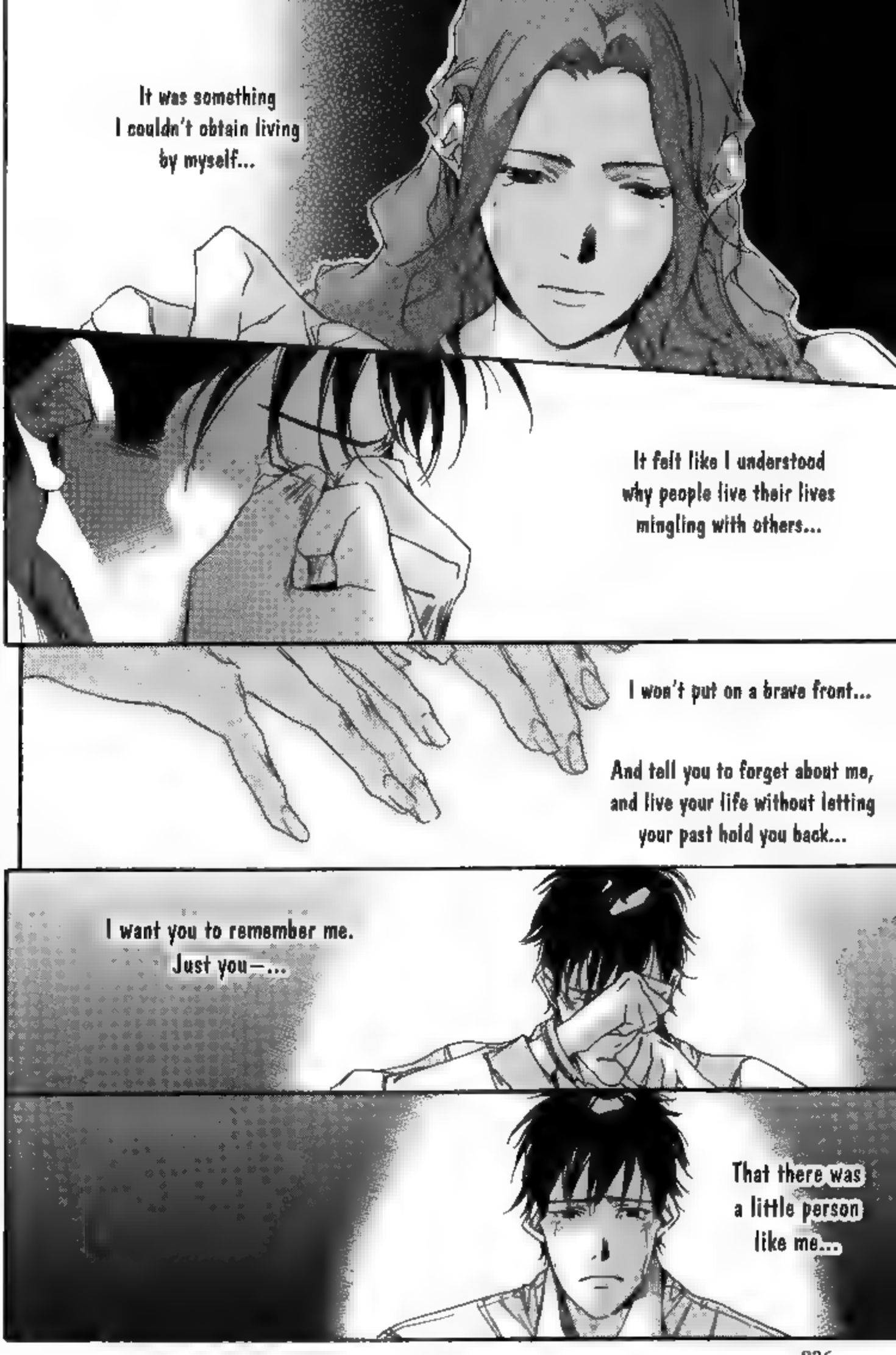
The truth is,
I'd been looking for you.

I looked for you...


I looked and looked...
But I couldn't find you...
I'd forgotten about it...
PASSING BY THE AUDITORIUM IS PRETTY ROUND-ABOUT..
UM, MR. INOUE...
THE REST CAN WAIT
?
So when I saw you here at the prison...
I thought that perhaps...
God truly did exist...




I knew for the first time how it felt to be happy.
Thanks to the Thursdays that I spent with you.


It was something I couldn't obtain living by myself...
It felt like I understood why people live their lives mingling with others...
I won't put on a brave front...
And tell you to forget about me, and live your life without letting your past hold you back...
I want you to remember me. Just you—...
That there was a little person like me...


You told me once that even though there was someone you hated enough to want to kill, you were afraid to do it and stopped.
I'M SORRY, BUT WE HAVE TO GO...
YUU...


I don't think that you stopped because you were afraid, but rather because you were brave.


OKAY...
If I had also done so...


Perhaps I could have said to you the words that I could never say...


That I haven't said once...
Words...
Not since I was born...
Probably...
Ever since then...


I'm tired of this
I'm tired of you
Live.
Even if it is only
for a day...

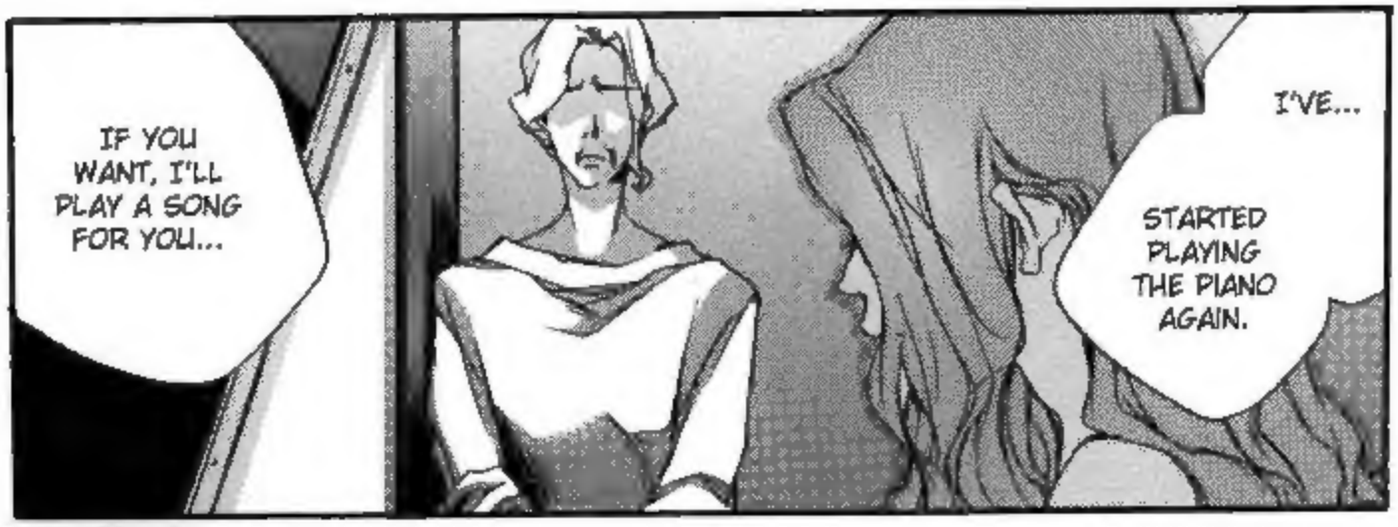

And please
find a way
To be happier
than anyone else


INVITING ME TO YOUR ROOM...
HAVE YOU FINALLY GONE MAD?
I FORGIVE YOU, MOTHER.




I...
CLENCH
EVEN SO, I—...
TRUTH IS, I STILL HATE YOU.
ENOUGH TO WANT TO KILL YOU.
I HAVE TO LIVE...


I FORGIVE YOU, MOTHER...
SO...





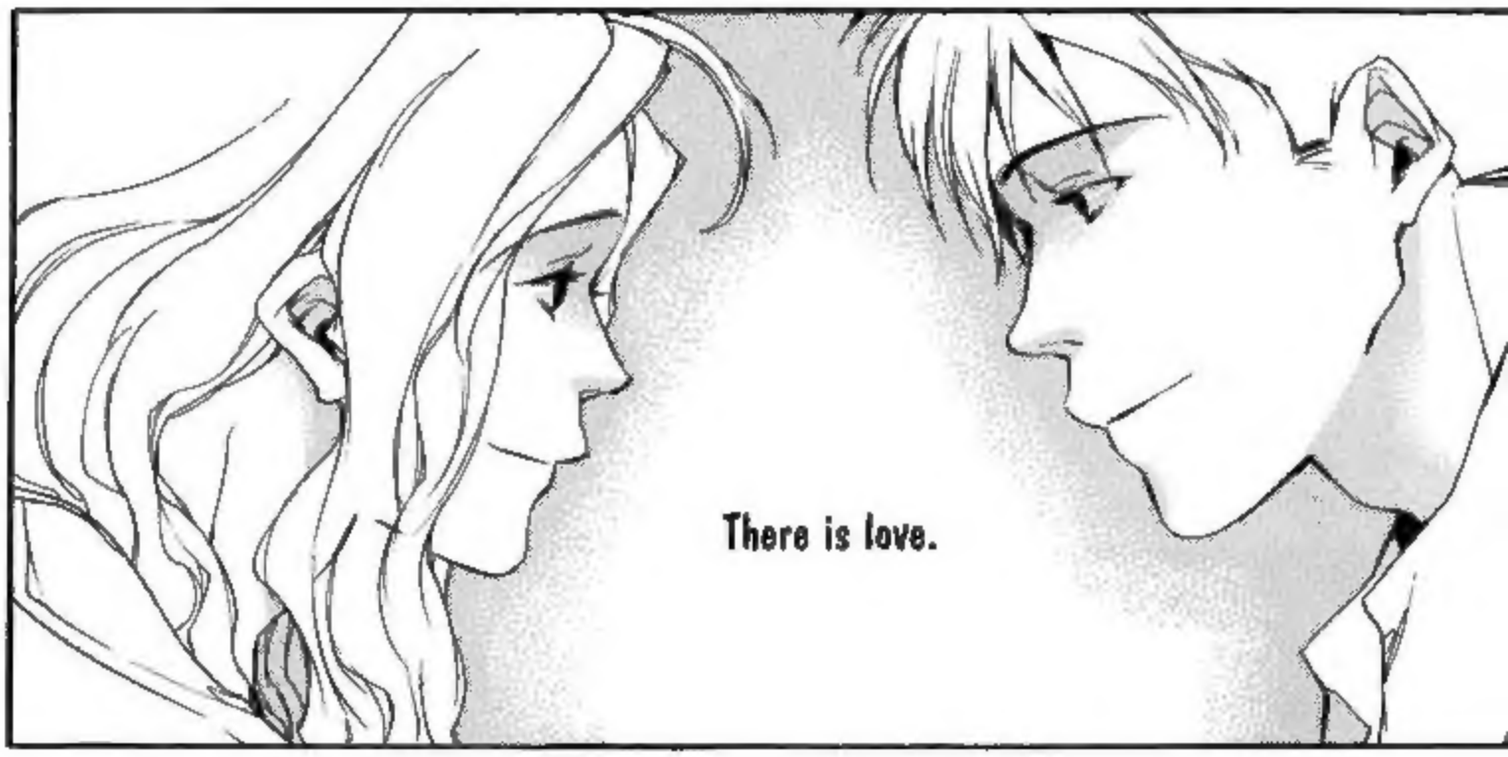
How to obtain that thing called happiness.

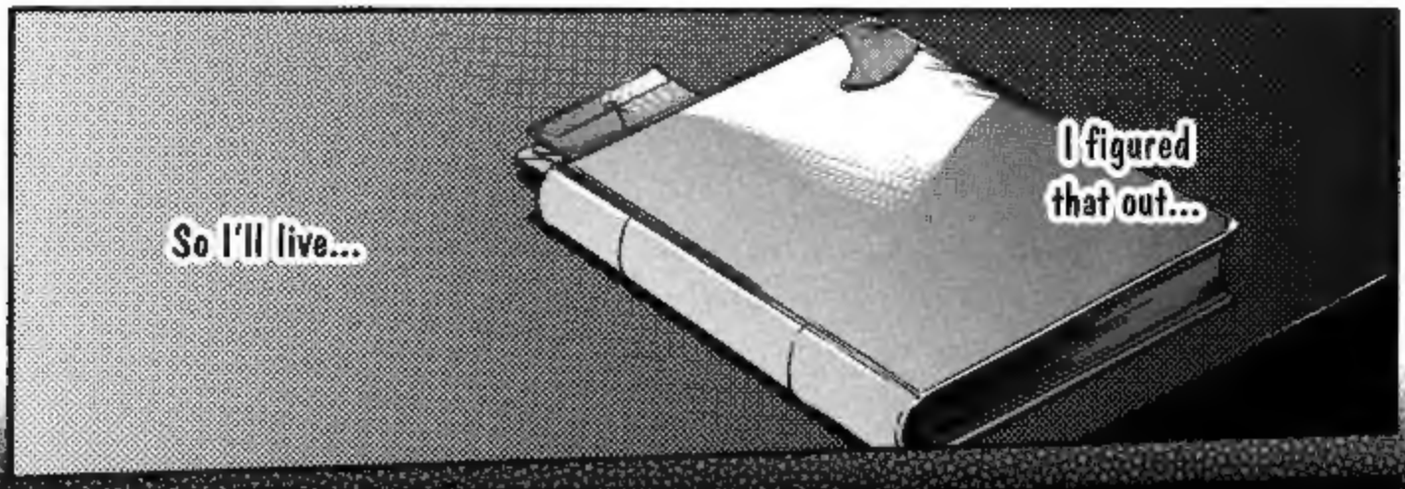
Don't dwell on any one time.

There is pain during the painful times,

And during the times when you are in love...

But he should have said it.


There is love.


I figured that out...
So I'll live...


From now on,
I'll live...

I remember when I first read the original novel,
it was the beginning of summer in 2007.
I feel as though it taught me that, because of mankind,
we are burdened by terrible hurt, but the way we're able to
find relief from this hurt is also through mankind...

Usually, I unintentionally close my eyes to such grave subjects,
but at first my supervisor proposed, "Let's do 6 chapters."
By no means did it come to a conclusion. Usually while working,
I'm so worried that I end up in delirium. But this time I was so
well-informed about this job, and I could do something I know,
so I'm very grateful I had a chance to participate.

Thanks to Haisuke translating my erroneous storyboard,
this crude storyline was given the go-ahead by Gong.
It's possible that society won't be affected by the question
that everyone hates to answer, just by reading this story.
The original novel is of great importance to all of us. I will apologize for
my severe insufficiencies while simultaneously thanking you
for your cooperation until now. I'd like to say thank you for joining me.

2008 Nov. Sahara Mizu

